

INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 18 AUGUST 1996

vely to the manager  
iership guide

mand  
Andrew  
fear over  
lack of  
sponsor

Rugby Union  
DAVID LLEWELLYN

Rab Andrew last night expressed concern over the potential impact of the new law on the game. The talks, which are aimed at ensuring the game's financial survival, are being held in the presence of a new, more powerful, sponsor.

But Andrew said: "All these figures are coming out of the ether. It's not money that's the problem. It's the way it's being spent."

Nothing's been signed. The clearly talking to one or two people, but a deal of that nature still has to be agreed."

Andrew was urged to be realistic. He had to realise that the test of the spirit of the law was not whether it was perfect, but whether it was workable.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.

He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success. He is convinced that the law will be a success.



Happy Families  
Forget the suburbs and move  
back to the inner city  
Section Two, cover story

Exclusive:  
University and college  
vacancy lists  
In tomorrow's paper

# THE INDEPENDENT

3,069 TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 1996 WEATHER: Hot and stormy 40p (R45P)

## The stifling of British democracy

ANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

MPs' attempts to apply the basic checks of British democracy to European law are being undermined by a staggering mix of Whitehall incompetence and Brussels arrogance.

Now, the Commons Select Committee on European Legislation, which is supposed to scrutinise all Brussels proposals on behalf of Parliament, has told ministers that it has had enough.

When the Commons returns from its summer break on 14 October, the committee will boycott all European legislative proposals that arrive without an official English text.

That could prove a severe embarrassment to ministers who are technically not allowed

to go to Brussels to enact Euro-law without Commons scrutiny clearance. It puts the Commons in open conflict with ministers over the area of maximum Tory sensitivity - Europe.

Patience exhausted, the committee reveals that only five out of 14 Government departments have even bothered to order its reports from HMSO: vital ministerial letters are regularly sent to wrong addresses or even non-existent committees; and over the last 12 months, 75 Brussels proposals "of legal or political importance" had to be examined "blind" - with no official text available from Brussels.

A year after ministers were warned that if matters did not improve, improperly-presented Euro-law could face a Commons boycott, the situation has

worsened. That "lamentable state of affairs" has forced the MPs on to a war footing, and the unprecedented blockade. The MPs say: "We look forward to an early improvement."

Technically, ministers are not allowed - except in the most exceptional circumstances - to agree to legislation in Brussels ministerial meetings, without prior passage through the Westminster scrutiny process.

In fact, as the committee reports, there have been a number of "lapses" in that rule; in breach of Government pledges to Parliament, or even in defiance of Commons resolutions.

There have even been occasions when ministers have not only gone ahead and given Brussels agreement, but they have then not told the select committee what they have done

until some weeks later - "or not at all".

But official contempt, or crass incompetence, has stretched the patience of the MPs to breaking point.

Under the scrutiny system, there are strict timetables for the delivery of official texts from Brussels, explanatory memoranda from ministers, and examination by the all-party committee, which includes a broad spectrum of pro-European and Euro-sceptic MPs from both parties.

Because scrutiny clearance is regarded by Parliament as a democratic essential for any legislation, the European Legislation Committee plays a vital role for the bulk of MPs who would not dream of looking at the text of Euro-law.

Yet the Department of Trade and Industry estimates that a third of existing UK legislation arises from treaty obligations to implement EU law, and "in future, 70 per cent of business law will come from that source".

The committee has discovered, however, that there are nine - unidentified - Government departments that have not even bothered to get regular delivery of its reports. It says: "We hardly trust ourselves to make further comment."

But the sorry saga continues, with the committee exposing a

breakdown in communications between Whitehall, ministers and the Westminster committee, with its offices just a 10-minute walk from most departments.

Ministerial explanations of Brussels law, and their answers to critical questions, are being wrongly addressed; some do not include the enclosures they promise; others come with second class postage; others are even sent to committees that do not exist.

These would be petty criticisms - after all, mistakes happen in the best-regulated circles - but for two things: the frequency of the errors, and their result.

"Preparation of a response to urgent questions from us about an important legislative proposal may involve the valuable

time of ministers and senior officials; but we are not telepaths, and the effort comes to nothing if the minister's reply is sent by second class post to the wrong address."

The committee also warns of the risks posed by Commission legislation - the use of secondary legislative powers provided by the ruling Council of Ministers. Last year, while 303 regulations were made by ministerial council, 827 regulations were issued by the Commission, without Parliamentary scrutiny.

The report adds: "Commission legislation on BSE was for a time the best-known piece of legislation in Europe." And for those who would argue that most of the Euro-law is trouble-free, "This is a little like reassuring a motorist that his tyre is only flat at the bottom."

### How the system is failing us

Last year, the European Legislation Committee was expected to give "blind" clearance to 42 important pieces of Brussels law, without an official text; over the last year, that has risen to a "lamentable" 75.

The Department of Trade and Industry, Treasury, and Foreign Office have repeatedly delayed Euro-law examination by sending memos to wrong addresses.

It took the "lackadaisical" Environment Department more than six months to deliver information, last January, on a law dealing with water for human consumption.

January, the Heritage Department showed "alarming ignorance" of the scrutiny process under which Euro-law is considered.

## 'The Firm' contemplates the ultimate privatisation

STEVE BOGGAN  
and MICHAEL STREETER

The Queen is preparing radical proposals for a shake-up of the Royal Family which would distance the monarchy from the Church of England, give women equal rights of succession and end state support for the Windsor.

Buckingham Palace yesterday confirmed that senior members of the Royal Family and



Royal shift: The Queen has radical plans for the future

their advisers were involved in talks about their future, believed to include the return of incomes surrendered to Parliament in the 18th century.

Details of the proposals, leaked to the *Sun* newspaper, include plans to restrict membership of the Royal Family to the monarch, the consort, their children and grandchildren who are direct heirs. They also provide for the ending of the monarch's role as head of the Church of England and would show kings and queens to marry Catholics, a move warmly welcomed by the Roman Catholic Church last night.

The plans, which would require several Acts of Parliament if approved, would end the tradition of sisters being overlooked for the throne and replaced by younger brothers under the rules of primogeniture.

Arguably the most potentially controversial proposal would involve the Queen giving up her £7.9m a year Civil List payment in return for income derived from the extensive Crown Estates surrendered by King George III in 1760. The Crown Estates portfolio brought in £94.6m for the Treasury last year, but was almost offset by the £80m-plus cost of financing the royals, their staffs and the royal palaces.

Although the proposals are understood to be in their infancy, one royal source said the sums added up to the suggestion that the Royal Family wanted to stand on its own feet "lock, stock and barrel".

Dr David Starkey, lecturer in history at the London School of Economics, said: "The idea of shifting from the Civil List - which is subject to Parliamentary votes and a form of Parliamentary audit - to depending on the Crown Estates really amounts to the privatisation of the monarchy."

The political parties, anxious not to provide ammunition to their opponents before the election, were muted yesterday, apart from Labour's constitutional affairs spokesman, Doug Henderson, who said he understood the discussions were "routine".

According to the *Sun*, the Queen's think-tank is called the Way Forward Group and it has been meeting every six months to discuss the future of the Royal Family. Its members include the Queen, Prince Philip, the Prince of Wales, Princes Edward and Andrew and Princess Anne. Also present are: Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary; his deputy, Robin Janviri; Prince Charles's private secretary, Sir Richard Aylard; and Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse.

A spokeswoman for the Palace confirmed that talks about the future had been under way "like in any organisation".

Windsor & Sons: page 3



Mirror image: Hay bales arranged by farmers make a harvest copy of Stonehenge on the opposite side of the A303, near Salisbury, in Wiltshire Photograph: Brian Harris

## Chechen truce dies at birth

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Ceasefire negotiations in Chechnya appeared to be dying at birth last night with a fresh outburst of fighting in Grozny, amid signs that the Russians are determined to regain control of the city after its humiliating loss nearly a fortnight ago.

The commander of federal troops in Chechnya, Konstantin Pulikovskiy, issued an ultimatum to the separatists saying the Russians would launch large-scale operations against the rebels in the city within 48 hours.

Fighting in the republic's capital flared anew as a meeting between Russian and Chechen officials ended fruitlessly, with the separatists angrily claiming the Kremlin was demanding a rebel withdrawal from Grozny as a precondition to a lasting ceasefire.

This development was followed by unconfirmed reports in Moscow quoting a rebel commander saying Russian troops had begun moving on Grozny from several directions around 7.15pm, raising fears that a full-scale counter-attack was under way. The Russians denied any such operation.

Whether or not these were the opening salvos in a Russian attempt to recapture the city, the outlook is looking increasingly bleak, despite the flicker of optimism that followed last week's visit to the war zone by Alexander Lebed, the Russian Security Council secretary.

Yesterday President Boris Yeltsin appeared to ignore Mr Lebed's more conciliatory handling of the crisis by ordering him to restore the situation in Grozny to "the law and order of 5 August" - the day before several thousand rebels stormed in and seized most of the city.

The instruction includes ending the Chechen blockade of government buildings, checkpoints and other Russian positions in the city. If Mr Lebed tries to do so using military force - it is highly unlikely the separatists would agree to move voluntarily - there would be a huge risk of more heavy casualties, and weeks of fighting. Many hundreds - including more than 200 federal troops - have died in the past two weeks.

Mr Yeltsin has said he is committed to the peace process he began in May and has asked Mr Lebed, his envoy to Chechnya, to concentrate on a partial withdrawal of federal troops by next month.

A Russian television station, NTV, said that Mr Lebed was meeting the Chechen chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov, in the region last night. But the latest developments will make all talks even harder than usual.

CONTENTS	
Section 1	BUSINESS & CITY 16-20
COMMENT	18-15
CROSSWORD	24
GAZETTE	12
LEADING ARTICLES	13
LETTERS	13
SHARES	19
UNIT TRUSTS	20
Section 2	ARCHITECTURE 10-11
ARTS	18-19
CROSSWORD	26
EDINBURGH	14-15
FASHION	12-13
HEALTH	6-8
LISTINGS	24-25
LIVING	4-5
MEDIA	20-21
RADIO	27
TELEVISION	28
VISUAL ARTS	16-17
WEATHER	25

**BSE verdict**  
A coroner opened up a legal minefield yesterday by ruling that beef products contaminated with mad cow disease, or BSE, caused the death of a 20-year-old from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Page 2

**Belgian outrage**  
As the full horror of Belgium's child-sex scandal became apparent, the public voiced its anger at the former minister of justice and the police. Page 9

American Express  
travellers  
Cheques  
fast-paced  
not  
nail-paced



Stay with us on business this Summer for at least 2 nights between 22 July and 5 September '96 (Sunday to Thursday) on our rack or corporate rates and we'll give you one weekend night FREE. With 78 hotels to choose from throughout the UK and Ireland, it's easy to see why we're number one for business travellers.

**FORTE Posthouse**

For more details of this special '3 for 2' offer or to make a booking please call, up to 3pm, 7 days a week  
**0800 40 40 40**  
or call your travel agent



## news

## Burger blamed over BSE death

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Editor

A coroner opened up a legal minefield yesterday by ruling that beef products contaminated with "mad-cow disease" (BSE) caused the death of a young man from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

Geoffrey Burt, coroner for North Durham, returned a verdict of misadventure on Peter Hall, 20, who died in February of CJD despite being a vegetarian since 1992. Mr Burt said

that on the "balance of probabilities" something like a beefburger eaten before 1990 caused the disease.

The verdict was significant because it did not rule the disease to be "natural causes", as it would be in its normal form, which usually affects people over 60. Instead, Mr Burt told the hearing, in Durham, that he felt misadventure was the appropriate verdict because the former student's death came about "through an outside course".

The decision leaves open the

question of whether Hall's parents could sue the manufacturers of any foods, or the Government, for failing to take sufficient action to keep the BSE agent out of the food chain.

After the hearing, his parents said they were "very pleased" with the outcome but it was "far too early" to consider pressing for compensation. Derek Hall said: "This has been a step in the right direction and is more ammunition to get things moving for a public inquiry." His wife, Frances, said: "We want the

Government to recognise that this has been a problem for a lot of years and should have been dealt with much earlier. Our son died because of their mistakes."

However, James Ironside, of the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, said: "This doesn't constitute proof of a link. It is a hypothesis, based on the epidemiological evidence. We need results from other experiments before we can definitely say that one causes the other."

He also disclosed that the number of suspected victims of the new CJD is slowly growing,

according to figures from the unit. Five more suspected cases are under review, including a teenage girl in Scotland. There have been 12 cases in Britain in the past two years, all the victims aged under 42.

Hall, who was from Chester-le-Street, County Durham, was one of the 12 cases. He had been vegetarian since he was 16 but his father said that before that time he had often taken a quick beefburger snack on coming home from school. And more often than not they had brisket on Sunday.

Mr Burt said: "I am satisfied that it is more likely than not that Peter contracted this disease prior to 1990 through eating some form of contaminated beef product, such as a beefburger."

A Health Department spokesman said that a coroner's opinion did not constitute scientific fact.

"The verdict is misadventure. It's a contribution to the debate and you now know the coroner's opinion but it doesn't actually change anything material here."

## Bards of Wales strike blow for language

TONY HEATH

Welsh poets who claim the BBC is undermining the purity of the ancient language are going on strike.

The bards are setting their sights on the Cardiff-based station Radio Cymru - in particular the long-running *Talwrn y Beirdd* (Cockpit of the Bards) programme which challenges contestants to compose poems in strict metre.

The programme which goes out twice a week has a successful track record extending over 15 years and, the BBC says, it will continue with or without the critics. The bards complain that the station, a major player in Wales's cultural life, is abandoning the old values of strict grammar and pronunciation to make way for programmes aimed at younger audiences.

They insist that Radio Cymru, which now includes English rock and pop - and the occasional word in another language - must be an all-Welsh service, for the 500,000 fluent speakers among Wales' 2.6 million inhabitants.

One of the senior bards, Myrddin ap Dafydd, who owns a bookshop at Llanwrst in the Conwy Valley, said: "The BBC is undermining the reasons for the station's existence."

Geraint Talfan Davies, BBC controller in Wales and a fluent Welsh speaker, was unworried by the threat of industrial action. "This is clearly a special moment in industrial history. It needs to be commemorated in a special radio ode which we would be happy to commission."

The battle between purists and the populists was joined yesterday by Agenda, an independent company that supplies a nightly magazine programme to the Welsh Fourth TV Channel. Its editor, Rhodri Williams, ensures that popular Welsh personalities who cannot communicate in the language still get an airing. He said: "It is essential to have policies that include output for people who don't speak Welsh very well."

## Tories under fire: Model who posed for photo hits out at 'dirty tricks' campaign



Focus of attention: A close-up of Scott Woods's eyes yesterday, turned upside down to mimic the campaign advertisement. Photograph: Edward Webb

## Devil advert gets another one in the eye

MICHAEL STREETER

The Tory decision to demonise Tony Blair continues to haunt the party, with the actor whose eyes were used to represent the devil in the Labour leader campaign yesterday that he did not approve of "dirty tricks" campaigns.

Scott Woods, a model and actor, said yesterday he would have turned down the job had he known the full content of the advertisements. His comments follow the announcement by the Advertising Standards Authority that it was investigating complaints about the campaign.

Mr Woods, 42, of Hackney, east London, said: "I knew the image was going to be used in

a Conservative Party "New Labour, New Danger" campaign, but they were only using my eyes and I had no idea they were going to superimpose it on a picture of Tony Blair. I'm unhappy about that and I think I would have turned the job down. It's all part of the dirty tricks campaign and I don't approve of that or being used in it."

Mr Woods, who appeared in Ken Russell's *Treasure Island* on Channel 4, and is about to play a serial killer in a new British film, *The Light House*, admits to a certain resemblance to Boris Karloff and says he was chosen because of his menacing eyes.

"During the shoot I was told to look as sinister as possible, and they put blue contact lens-



No to the eyes: Tory advert

es on me to make me look even more of a serial killer."

The actor, who was chosen from a list of models on the

books of the Ugly Enterprises model agency, admits he is a Blair supporter but confesses he used to vote for Margaret Thatcher. "I think Tony Blair is trying to change things and I admire him for that."

Although open to the charge of self-publicity in coming forward, Mr Woods, who only took up acting a year ago and is thought to have been paid around £200 for the work, did not tell his agent or model agency of yesterday's informal press conference. His motive, he said, was fear of exposure by a newspaper that was on his trail.

His comments yesterday touched a chord with a number of Tory politicians who feel unhappy about the nature of such

an attack on Mr Blair. The demonology aspect has been criticised by a leading churchman, and Mr Major himself is reported to be unhappy with the campaign.

A Central Office spokeswoman insisted that Mr Woods had "known from the start" how the photograph would be used, and said while there were no further plans to use them again, it had "not been ruled out."

Steve Hilton, of M&C Saatchi, which devised the campaign, said that at the time that Mr Woods did the photographs and a related video there were no plans to use the Blair newspaper advertisements, which were a response to the Clare Short interview in the *New Statesman*.

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The five boys on the French school trip on which the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson was murdered were yesterday taken to a police station to give DNA samples, said a source close to the investigation. The youngsters arrived at the station close to the investigation. The youngsters arrived at the station close to the investigation. The youngsters arrived at the station close to the investigation.

The boys were in a 45-strong party of pupils and teachers from Launceston community college on a week-long trip to Brittany when the tragedy happened on 18 July. Caroline, 13, from Launceston, was raped and suffocated in a tiny dormitory from a hostel in the town of Pléne-Fougères. A Devon and Cornwall police source has said the boys were being treated as witnesses, not suspects. All the children on the trip will now be reinterviewed.

Industrial unrest in the rail network is set to spread to the flagship Gatwick Express line and breaks during working in disputes over productivity and breaks during working periods. Employees at some eight companies are already planning 24-hour strikes on Friday and Tuesday, but ballots on strikes are now taking place at a dozen more operators.

The Friday and Tuesday stoppages, involving catering staff, conductors and ticket collectors, are set to affect Central Trains, North West Regional, South Wales and West, Merseyrail North, Cross-Country and ScotRail. Walkouts are also planned on 29 August and 12 September at other companies: South West Trains, Anglia Railway, Cardiff Railway, Gatwick Express, Great Eastern, London Tilbury and Southend, Inter-City West Coast, Midland Mainline and Island Line, Thames, East Coast Main Line and Great Western. *Barrie Clement*

The potential eviction of homeless asylum seekers from temporary accommodation was put on hold last night after High Court action by Shelter and the Refugee Council. Government lawyers told the court they were urgently consulting the housing minister David Curry on the intentions behind part of the Asylum and Immigration Act after the two charities argued that the Government was attempting to implement it retrospectively. The Department of the Environment said it had "no view" on whether councils should act immediately as Shelter accused ministers of "astounding incompetence" in failing to issue guidance under the Act. *Nicholas Timmins*

The solicitor representing the man accused of stabbing a young vicar to death in his churchyard told a court yesterday that he was concerned about the large amount of publicity the case had attracted. Julian Linskill told Liverpool Magistrates' Court that he was concerned about whether *Terence Storey*, 31, of Speke, Liverpool, would get a fair trial in the city. Reporting restrictions were lifted after an application by Mr Linskill when Mr Storey appeared charged with murdering the 32-year-old clergyman Christopher Gray eight days ago at St Margaret's Church, Anfield. Mr Storey was remanded in custody until September 16.

Police seized a 2kg rhino horn worth £15,000 after a raid on a commercial premises and are now questioning a man over the discovery. Area wildlife officers from the Metropolitan Police and the Environmental Investigation Agency searched the premises, in west London, yesterday and seized the tusk, which is 16-20 inches long. The search was part of Operation Charm, a continuing investigation into the illegal trade and importation of endangered species.

A charity yesterday called on the Pope to condemn animal cruelty in Catholic celebrations. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is asking supporters to send postcards of abused animals to the Pontiff, urging him to oppose the cruelty meted out at Spanish and Latin American fiestas. The postcards of bleeding, tethered and tormented bulls include one of a bull with lit Catherine wheels on his horns.

## Ministers 'contemptuous' of checks on EU

ANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

Westminster's first and most vital check on Brussels law-making is regularly treated with contempt by British ministers and their departments.

Government undertakings and Commons resolutions lay down a strict procedure, under which ministers are generally not allowed to agree to Brussels directives or regulations until they have been cleared by a formal Westminster scrutiny procedure.

Under that process, the all-party European Legislation Committee - probably the most streamlined and professional operation in the Palace of Westminster - plays a vital, democratic role on behalf of Parliament.

But it is now regularly being

subjected to what it generously calls "lapses". Whatever the cause of the "difficulties", democracy is being short-circuited.

Listing the main problems it faces with Whitehall, the committee cites:

■ Failure to secure Westminster scrutiny clearance before ministers reach final Brussels agreement - legislative decision. "On some occasions ministers have not only failed to secure scrutiny clearance, they have failed to tell us about it until some weeks later, or not at all."

■ Late deposit of documents. "In one case, seven weeks after the proposal had been agreed, or enacted in Brussels."

■ Late submission of ministerial explanatory memorandums, which should be delivered within 10 working days of the Brussels proposal arriv-

All-party committee exposes failure of government to allow proper scrutiny

ing in London. "In the worst cases, five weeks and eight weeks after the documents had been discussed in the Council." So ministers who are talking in Brussels do not have the time or inclination to fulfil fundamental democratic obligations to their own national Parliament.

■ Late provision of information formally requested by the select committee in reports or in letters to ministers. "A number of delays of three months or more; in the worst case, fourteen months."

According to the committee, each of those categories "represents breaches of government undertakings or a

Resolution of the House." But that democratic felony is compounded by the bungling incompetence - or worse - of Whitehall departments who apparently feel that they do not even have to perform the most basic tasks, like correctly addressing letters, or enclosing documents that are said to be enclosed.

"Departments, and particularly ministers' Private Offices, do not seem able to get documents to us with any degree of reliability."

"The basic requirement is that all communications of any sort should come to our offices, where they can be registered and copied, briefing prepared,

and then circulated in reasonable time for Members to study them before their weekly scrutiny meeting."

"Given the quantity of documents we deal with every week, this operation is always close to the margin."

"It becomes impossible if we do not receive explanatory memorandums and ministerial and other correspondence by the quickest possible means."

But in spite of the clearest possible Whitehall instructions - and repeated reminders from the Cabinet Office - letters are still being sent to Jimmy Hood, the Labour committee chairman, at the Commons, with no indication that they contain urgent correspondence for his committee.

When he is in his Clydesdale constituency, the Commons post office automatically redi-

rects all his mail to Scotland - completely by-passing the select committee machine.

But the insult does not end there. Ministers' letters are frequently sent by second class post, sometimes even when a minister is asking us for urgent scrutiny clearance on a document.

Other regular problems include missing enclosures, letters for us addressed to the House of Lords, to other select committees, to non-existent committees, and so on.

Last year, the committee warned ministers that it would consider a boycott of some European proposals if Brussels continued to expect Westminster scrutiny to be carried out "blind" - without the texts of the documents, regulations and directives that were on the brink of enactment by ministers.

Use this voucher to try our 12-page Summer of Sport pull-out this Wednesday

THE INDEPENDENT for only 10p on Wednesday

To the Readers: Hand this voucher to the newsagent with a copy of The Independent on Wednesday 21 August 1996 and pay only 10p. (Home delivery customers have until 18 September 1996 to present this voucher to your newsagent. If you have any problems redeeming your voucher, please call telephone 0800 698 821.

To the Retailers: Please accept this voucher as part payment for The Independent on Wednesday 21 August 1996, (reader pays 10p). To receive your normal terms plus a 20p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 18 September 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for The Independent only.

WHOLESALE NAME: RETAILER'S BOX NO.: To the Wholesalers: Please credit the returning retailer with 32p (P.O. 37p). This includes 20p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To receive your credit together with the wholesaler handling allowance, please send to Wholesaler Redemption Ltd, 17 Orion Court, Cranley Farm Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 3DB.

Reader's name: Address:

Postcode: Tel: SPTW/GP

9 506480 120300

"You can't expect to wield supreme executive power just because some watery tart threw a sword at you."

INCLUDES THE MISSING 24 SECONDS

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL OUT NOW TO BUY ON VIDEO

25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION



# The Royal Family is debating a new role, but just who will pay the piper – and call the tune?

## Debate finds MPs at a loss

It's one of the last great political taboos. Politicians find debating the future of the Royal Family about as comfortable as discussing BSE over Sunday lunch.

The Labour Party in particular considers it a very touchy subject. When prospective parliamentary candidate Paul Richards recently published his Fabian pamphlet – gently suggesting referendums on keeping the Monarchy – you could almost hear the sound of falling furniture as Labour spin doctors ran to their phones to distance the party from such heretical views.

Frontbenchers have fared little better. The shadow Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, was forced to apologise for daring to suggest that Prince Charles may not be entirely fit to be king.

Even leadership favourite Mr Mowlem was subjected to reverse spin-doctoring two years ago when he proposed a purpose-built "People's Palace" for the Royals, leaving Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace to the nation. And Jack Straw was criticised in the House by the normally mild-mannered Stephen Dorrell for positing a Scandinavian-style monarchy.

Tony Blair has gone out of his way to make it clear that even a constitutionally reforming Labour Party perceives a central role for the Queen.

The political wisdom among Labour ranks, largely unchallenged, is that the "ordinary" people love the Royals and even hinting that the expense, embarrassment and anachronism of the House of Windsor may be worth reforming is electoral suicide.

Labour backbencher Lynne Jones, who would like to see a referendum on the role of the monarchy at the end of the Queen's reign, feels politicians are too cautious. "It is amazing that we don't discuss this issue," she says. "The politicians are behind the public on this – it's not something people are unwilling to discuss."

Indeed, like Dr Jones, Rotherham's Labour MP Denis MacShane, sees a role for a streamlined monarchy which could still carry out formal and ceremonial functions. "I would much rather someone like Princess Anne coming up here to open a new Sunday school. In other countries you'd get some plonker of an MP doing it."

Michael Streeter



Jack Straw: Faced criticism



Board meeting: The 'Way Forward Group' (from left) Sir Richard Aylard, Prince Charles, Prince Philip, the Queen, and Sir Robert Fellowes

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

# E. Windsor & Sons?

"The biggest privatisation of them all" was how one commentator described it yesterday. What remains unclear today is whether privatisation of the Royal Family would leave it wealthy, like BT, or broke, like BR.

While four of the five main proposals to take the royals into the 21st Century – allowing eldest daughters to succeed to the throne; removing the monarch as head of the Church of England; allowing the monarch to marry a Catholic; and reducing the size of the Royal Family – would meet little resistance, the fifth is not so simple.

That proposal, apparently under discussion within a private forum of Royal Family members and advisers, would involve renouncing the £7.5m Civil List payment, in return for the income from the Crown Estates, surrendered by King George III in 1760.

A bargain? On the face of it, not for the taxpayer. According to the 1995/96 annual report of the Crown Estates commissioners, income from the land and property they administer – some of the most expensive pieces of real estate in the country – amounted to £94.6m. However, the latest estimates of the costs of running the Royal Household, its palaces and staff amount to about £80m.

If, therefore, the privatisation analogy were taken to its conclusion, the royals could well be in for a bumper dividend.

The Palace refused to discuss specifics of the talks, revealed yesterday by the Sun newspaper,

but one Buckingham Palace source said the financial changes, if approved by Parliament, could result in a radical loosening of the Crown's dependence on government.

At present, the cost of the Royal Family is spread across a number of government departments. They pay for everything from security to the cost of the Royal Flight – until recently – the Royal yacht, *Britannia*. Included is the upkeep of Buckingham Palace, Wind-

sor Castle, St James's Palace, Clarence House, Kensington Palace, Marlborough House, Hampton Court and Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. The Queen pays for Balmoral and Sandringham.

However, if the income from the Crown Estates were returned, the taxpayer could no longer be expected to pay for the royal excesses. "It seems obvious that the sums are still being worked out," said one royal source. "But if the deal is that

they get all the Crown Estates income back in return for standing on their own feet, you can expect to see them having to pay for the palaces. Who actually gets to keep them – the royals or the state – is another argument."

Dr David Starkey, lecturer in history at the London School of Economics, said we might expect to see the royals selling themselves harder, like many struggling landowners.

"This would make them more like any other noble family, living off its estates. It would be a monarchy which becomes more like Alton Towers or the Lions of Longleat. It is going to have to flog itself very hard."

But there is a constitutional element, too, according to Vernon Bogdanor, Professor of Government at Oxford University. He said: "Sir Frederick Ponsford, Keeper of the Privy Purse for George V, once said: 'It is an essential part of the Constitution that the Sovereign should be dependent on

Parliament for the Civil List and should not receive money directly from Crown lands.'

"Those comments were based on the view that the monarchy should be dependent on Parliament so it couldn't do anything awful. However, there is a danger now that the monarchy could become too close to government. If, for example, John Major failed to get an overall majority at the next election. The other two parties might be able to form a coalition government, but Mr Major might ask the Queen to dissolve Parliament so he can call another election. In that instance, it is better for the Constitution to have an independent monarch who would refuse."

So, would the monarchy look radically different? Lord Blake, the Conservative historian, who has offered advice in the past at the request of the Queen – though not in this forum – thinks not. "To all intents and purposes, most people would see no difference," he said.

A recent row over the control of the Church of England's assets has shown clearly that the Church of England believes that it is already free from state control in all but name. The social security select committee of the House of Commons has objected to a church plan to transfer control of the income from the church's £3bn assets from the Church Commissioners, who are formally answerable to Parliament, to the General Synod, which is not. It is clear from the synod's response that it cannot accept state control of the church as anything more than a distant principle.

Andrew Brown

Steve Boggan

caption

John Lichfield

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

the other main links in establishment are that the Prime Minister appoints diocesan bishops from a short-list prepared by a committee of church politicians and civil servants and that 24 of these bishops sit in the House of Lords. The Prime Minister also chooses senior cathedral clergy. The church's governing body, the General Synod, is the only body outside Parliament which can make English law. Parliament must approve the laws that the General Synod passes, but it cannot modify them.

A recent row over the control of the Church of England's assets has shown clearly that the Church of England believes that it is already free from state control in all but name. The social security select committee of the House of Commons has objected to a church plan to transfer control of the income from the church's £3bn assets from the Church Commissioners, who are formally answerable to Parliament, to the General Synod, which is not. It is clear from the synod's response that it cannot accept state control of the church as anything more than a distant principle.

Andrew Brown

Steve Boggan

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

caption

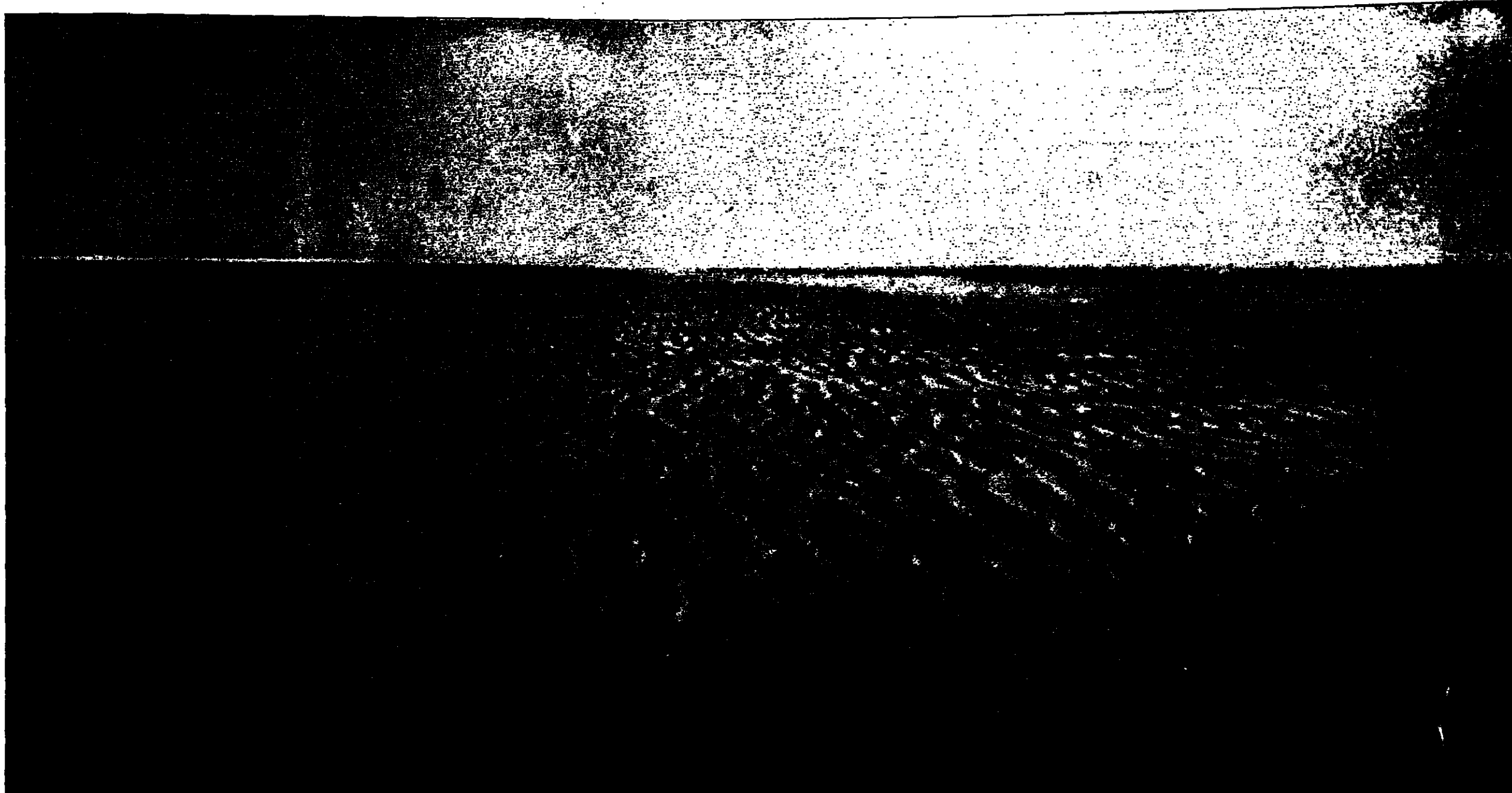
caption

caption



## news

# The beach is deserted, but a desperate hunt continues



Dangerous playground: The beach at Holme in Norfolk yesterday. Jodie and Tom Loughlin were last seen running towards the sea, which is notorious in the area for the unpredictability of the tide

Photograph: Simon Hadley/Assignments

The beach at Holme in Norfolk was eerily deserted of families yesterday, as police continued the search for two children who apparently disappeared after splashing in the sea at the start of their summer holiday.

Jodie Loughlin, six, and her brother Tom, four, were last seen by their parents running through crowds of families towards the waves on Sunday evening as the tide came in. They disappeared from their

## Charlie Bain reports on the fruitless search for two small children thought to have walked into the surf

parents' sight within minutes. As dusk fell last night, police continued to comb the four-mile area of coast near Hunstanton, joined by a fireman, coastguards, mountain rescue experts and volunteers. But they found no sign of the children, who cannot swim, and fears grew that they had been swept out to sea. Their parents, Kevin

Loughlin and Lynette Thornton, both 37, from south London, were fighting to come to terms with what had happened. Superintendent John Hale, who is co-ordinating the search, said there was no indication that the children had been abducted. The search was to be resumed at sunrise today. "The children's parents have

been absolutely amazing," Supt Hale said. "Everything must have gone through their minds, I am sure. But they have nothing to reproach themselves for. Children get separated from their parents on beaches all the time. We know that it only takes a minute." The family had arrived for a week's holiday in Norfolk on

Saturday. Mr Loughlin, a computer consultant, was the last known person to have seen the children and was among searchers who scoured beaches, dunes and woodland for six hours on Sunday night.

One woman holidaymaker, from Cambridgeshire, reported seeing two children who fitted the description of Jodie and

Tom playing alone in the surf at around 6.30pm on Sunday, about a mile from where they were last seen. Police are also examining a private video of the scene on the beach on Sunday.

The beach at Holme was particularly busy at the weekend because Hunstanton was celebrating its 150th anniversary. Thousands of families visited

the resort, which is famous for its golf course, sandy beaches, coastal resorts and nature reserves.

But Holme is also notorious for its unpredictable waters and uneven sands which has led to swimmers being caught out by the incoming tide.

The incident is the second tragedy involving holidaymak-

ers there in the past two years. An eight-year-old boy from Leicester was buried alive in a sand dune in the resort.

The body of a missing eight-year-old boy was found on a beach near Skegness, Lincolnshire, yesterday after a three-hour search by 100 volunteers joined police, coastguards and lifeboat crews in a search. A police spokesman said there were no suspicious circumstances.

## Virus triggers recall of blood products

GLENDIA COOPER

Blood products which are used to treat haemophiliacs and burns victims were recalled yesterday after a hepatitis virus was found in the plasma from which they are made.

A donor in a "window" period - when antibodies do not show up in the blood - or a failure in the screening process were the most likely causes of contamination of the plasma pool with traces of the hepatitis C virus.

The National Blood Authority said that recalling the products was precautionary and assured patients that the four batches of factor VIII and albumin would pose no risk to them. The blood products would have gone through viral inactivation processes to make them safe even if they did contain a virus, the NBA said.

Factor VIII is given to haemophiliacs and albumin is used to treat people with burns and shock. The batches, sent out in June and July, contained about 2,000 bottles of factor VIII and 11,500 of albumin.

The problem was revealed by a new extra-sensitive test known as the PCR (polymerase chain reaction), required under European rules for the manufacture of certain types of blood product. Minute traces of hepatitis C were found in the plasma pool from which the products were being made by Bio Products Laboratory (BPL), which is part of the NBA.

The test was carried out on a sample of the plasma that was to be used to make immunoglobulin - an immune system booster used to fight hepatitis and one of the vaccinations commonly given to travellers. The plasma pool had

already been used to manufacture factor VIII and albumin.

A spokeswoman for the NBA said: "We consulted the Department of Health and felt in the public interest that this was the right thing to do. If we find any trace of a virus then we don't use the product."

She stressed that there was no chance of the virus posing a health risk. Factor VIII and albumin were processed to knock out any viruses they might contain before they were given to patients, she said. "Patients who have used the products need have no concern about their safety."

She said that the virus could have made its way into the plasma pool if one of the donors had been in a "window" period or if there had been a fault in one of the tests. She said that a full investigation would be carried out to find out how this could have happened.

Gabrielle Page, spokeswoman for the hepatitis C support group, said that the "fragmentation" of the blood service made it easier for mistakes to happen. "Whereas it used to be a body, non-profit making and existing for itself, now that it has to sell off its products and has to become diversified it has changed."

BPL was yesterday contacting its customers asking them to return the blood products, which would be destroyed. The plasma pool would not be used to make any more products.

Hepatitis C is a "silent" disease which may not produce symptoms for 20 years. It was discovered only in 1989 and, without treatment, 25 to 50 per cent of patients develop scarring of the liver and a proportion of those will have liver failure and some will develop liver cancer.

## Filthy hot snap has Britons wheezing

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Air quality in England was at or near the health-warning point yesterday as Mediterranean temperatures combined with exhaust emissions and other pollutants.

Friends of the Earth said Britain was "choking in the worst smog of the summer" but the Department of the Environment judged there was no need to repeat its special notice of six weeks ago, mainly directed at motorists and sufferers from asthma and other problems.

Nitrous oxide pollution was described as "poor" in London - carrying a warning to vulnerable people to avoid strenuous activity - and was nearly as bad in other parts of central and eastern England.

The potentially harmful levels will increase pressure for action to curb traffic in cities when the Government publishes its draft National Air Quality Strategy today.

More ammunition for environmental campaigners was provided by researchers for the British Lung Foundation who said high levels of summer ozone may be damaging the lungs of even healthy individuals.

The researchers, based at Southampton General Hospital, found that the airways of healthy people exposed to ozone pollution became inflamed. The findings suggested people could protect themselves from ozone with antioxidant vitamins like A, C and E.

The DoE air quality forecast for most parts of England was given as "poor" yesterday, though in the event the critical level was only triggered in North Yorkshire.

Nottingham was the hottest spot yesterday, reaching 31.4C. Holidaymakers leaving Heathrow for the Mediterranean were forsaking a baking 31C for a cooler 27C at noon in Nice.

Though the temperature fell short of this year's hottest - 33.1C in Jersey on 22 July and 32.9 at Gravesend on 7 June - the M25 started to melt around junction three, where it meets the M20 in Kent.

But the mini-heatwave is almost over. Showers, maybe thundery, are on the way.

## Man of humanity: Jew had gift of compassion

# Holocaust survivor Rabbi Gryn dies

Andrew Brown  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Rabbi Hugo Gryn, who died yesterday aged 66, was one of the last survivors of the Holocaust to play a role in public life.

Only about 100,000 Jews emerged alive from the camps in 1945; yet some of the survivors brought an extraordinary sweetness, as Hugo did, into the world.

Rabbi Gryn, born in the Carpathian mountains, emerged from Auschwitz at the age of 15, with his father who died almost immediately after they were liberated. After working as a rabbi in New York and Bombay, he became rabbi of the West London synagogue in Mayfair, the largest and most fashionable reform Jewish synagogue in England; and in his work on Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* he became one of the most respected religious broadcasters in the country.

Rabbi Gryn's friend and colleague, Rabbi Albert Friedlander, said yesterday that for many of the camp survivors, "it was a very lonely existence, because they were pushed away by the society in which they lived".

Dr Friedlander, who himself came to Britain as a child to escape Nazi persecution, said: "People were afraid of the survivors, or held them in awe, or

did not want to know. Elie Wiesel, a camp survivor and writer who won the Nobel peace prize, would say that for many years what would hurt most was that he was not believed."

A disproportionate number of notable camp survivors were writers, partly because the injunction to write and to record was passed down through the camps, partly because writing was a skill which interfered very little with the work of survival. Most of the musicians and artists who entered the camps seem to have perished there.

"People who have suffered are much more able to deal with reconciliation"

Dr Friedlander pointed out that most of the greatest writers later killed themselves. "So many of them made major contributions, and then committed suicide - Primo Levi, Paul Celan, Piotr Rawicz, Terence de Pres. "If it had not been for the Holocaust, I am convinced that none would have committed suicide... there was a remaining pain trapped inside them, like an embolism. There were withdrawals when they wanted to be

left alone. But I knew all those writers, and I found them to be more humane than most."

Dr Friedlander and his wife, Evelyn, who are both active in the work of reconciliation, say survivors in some ways often found it easier to forgive than did others of their generation.

"Hugo was one of the rare people who somehow seemed to rise beyond it," Evelyn Friedlander said. "People who have suffered are much more able to deal with reconciliation. Jews who have had no connection with it can't begin to deal with it; whereas among the people who had suffered there is perhaps a need in themselves to be able to overcome the bitterness."

Dr Friedlander said: "I think the survivors on the whole had much more compassion and understanding. A sizeable number of those people, like Hugo, understood the frailties of people but did not carry around a load of hatred."

"Those people who are the most unforgiving and full of hatred were those who were never in the camps, but will never now buy a Mercedes. Those who were in the camps were sweeter, kinder. Of course, there were many who came out of there totally embittered. But they did not make much of a contribution, and the others did."

Obituary, page 12

## Argos sails into top league

When the catalogue retailer Argos was launched, its most successful products were a fibre-optic light (£7.95), a carpet-sweeper, (£3.35) and a spicewheel (£4.70). The image of a slightly naff, a bit downmarket but phenomenally successful business was set.

Twenty-three years on from its birth, Argos has opened more than 390 stores and is seen as an institution in the high street similar to old favourites like Boots. The group announced yesterday that its turnover was up 18.2 per cent to £561m and profit before tax had increased by 45 per cent.

Their sales method effected a retailing revolution in Britain. Purchased goods do not come off the shelves but are ordered via computer from massive unseen storerooms. The customer fills in a form, takes it to the terminal to pay, receives a receipt and picks up his or her item from the collections desk.

In 1994, Argos also became the first UK chain to use touch-screen technology, which enables customers to process their

## Catalogue retailer has revolutionised the high street, writes Glenda Cooper

own purchase and order it from the storerooms.

The idea behind Argos came from America and caught the eye of Richard Tompkins, who had introduced Green Shield stamps in Britain in the early Seventies. He launched the first 17 Argos stores from a London hotel, with much razzmatazz (18 dancers and specially written songs) on 17 July 1973. Sales to-

talled £6.5m in the first financial year.

Argos's most successful areas are now branded electrical appliances, jewellery and electronics and any suggestion that the Argos name is synonymous with lower-income groups or the less trendy is greeted with fury by the group. "The Argos shoppers have exactly the same demographic profile as the UK,"

said Janet Hildreth, group public relations manager. "We have shoppers from every single social group."

"Argos is a company with quite a long history," said George Wallace, chief executive of Management Horizons, specialists in retail consultancy. "I think initially it may have been seen as a little bit downmarket. But my view is that it is one of those institutions in retailing which goes across the social and income groups. I think it has really come of age."

For Richard Perks, senior retail analyst at Verdict, the success of Argos in recent years reflects the 1990s zeitgeist. And, despite the feelgood factor returning, there is as yet no rush back to the conspicuous consumerism of the Eighties.

"Even though we are going through a consumer upturn, people still respond carefully to the combination of value for money, quality and guaranteed brand names," he said. "At the end of the day, it comes down to the right products at the right price."

Profits bonanza, page 17.

## Lakeside takes the credit

One of the UK's biggest shopping centres, Lakeside, announced yesterday that it is to become the first to launch its own credit card, writes Glenda Cooper.

The move is the latest in the increasingly tough competition in the credit-card world. The strategic analysts Datamonitor predicted yesterday that a price war was inevitable with the introduction of transatlantic competitors and other new en-

trants such as the supermarket giant Tesco.

Lakeside in Thirrock, Essex, has linked up with Midland Bank to introduce the Lakeside Visa Card on 9 September. Shoppers will be given incentives to open the account including a £10 Lakeside gift voucher and the card, which has no annual fee, can be used at more than 12 million Visa outlets worldwide as well as in stores in the centre.

## Rebuff on water cuts

The Government yesterday rejected a call from doctors to make the disconnection of water supplies illegal because of the risk to public health.

Cutting off water to homes could lead to the spread of diseases such as dysentery and hepatitis A, the British Medical Association warned.

The Department of Health said there was no evidence of a danger to health. A spokesman said: "We have never been able to establish any direct relationship between water disconnection and the spread of communicable diseases in the UK."

The company with the largest number of disconnections last

year, Thames Water, defended its right to cut off persistent non-payers. A spokeswoman for the company, which made 1,047 disconnections in 1995-96, said cutting off supplies remained a last resort, but added: "We have to distinguish between those people who can't pay and those who won't pay."

In Scotland and Northern Ireland disconnections are already illegal, forcing companies to recover debts without cutting water. The BMA argues there is no reason why the same policy should not be adopted in England, where disconnections have been allowed since 1945.

According to the latest report from the water watchdog,

Ofwat, supplies to 5,862 homes in England and Wales were cut off last year because of unpaid bills. That was the lowest level since 1988-89.

Dr Sarah Taylor, a consultant in public health and a member of the BMA's board of science, said: "The fact that the water companies were so easily able to reduce the total numbers of disconnections proves that this approach to debt collection is completely unnecessary, apart from being a danger to public health."

Disconnections made it impossible to take basic hygiene measures, to prepare food safely or to flush the lavatory, she said.

150 من الاصل

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a textured surface, likely water, with a bright, vertical light source on the right side. The image is characterized by a grainy, high-contrast aesthetic, with the right side being very bright and the left side being very dark. The texture appears to be composed of many small, irregular shapes, possibly ripples or fibers. The overall effect is one of intense light and shadow, creating a dramatic, almost abstract composition.

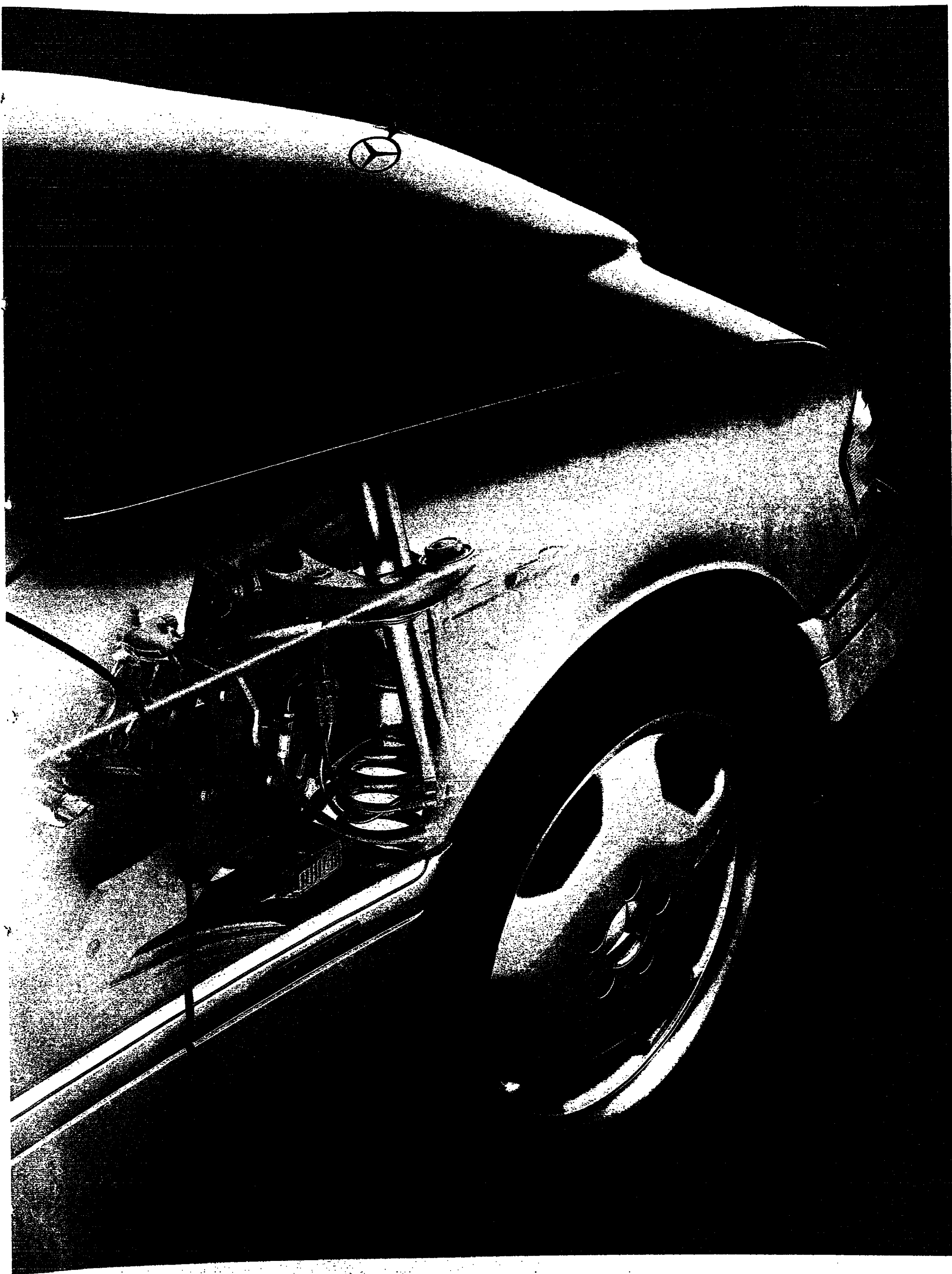
[illegible]

# survivor -yn dies

1. *What is the purpose of the study?*  
 2. *What are the research objectives?*  
 3. *What is the research design?*  
 4. *What are the variables?*  
 5. *What is the sample size?*  
 6. *What are the data sources?*  
 7. *What are the data collection methods?*  
 8. *What are the data analysis methods?*  
 9. *What are the results?*  
 10. *What are the conclusions?*  
 11. *What are the limitations?*  
 12. *What are the implications?*  
 13. *What are the future research directions?*  
 14. *What are the references?*  
 15. *What are the appendices?*  
 16. *What are the glossary?*  
 17. *What are the abbreviations?*  
 18. *What are the symbols?*  
 19. *What are the units?*  
 20. *What are the formulas?*  
 21. *What are the tables?*  
 22. *What are the figures?*  
 23. *What are the charts?*  
 24. *What are the graphs?*  
 25. *What are the diagrams?*  
 26. *What are the flowcharts?*  
 27. *What are the maps?*  
 28. *What are the photos?*  
 29. *What are the videos?*  
 30. *What are the audios?*  
 31. *What are the interviews?*  
 32. *What are the focus groups?*  
 33. *What are the surveys?*  
 34. *What are the experiments?*  
 35. *What are the case studies?*  
 36. *What are the ethnographies?*  
 37. *What are the phenomenologies?*  
 38. *What are the grounded theories?*  
 39. *What are the action researches?*  
 40. *What are the participatory action researches?*  
 41. *What are the collaborative action researches?*  
 42. *What are the emancipatory action researches?*  
 43. *What are the critical action researches?*  
 44. *What are the transformative action researches?*  
 45. *What are the liberatory action researches?*  
 46. *What are the radical action researches?*  
 47. *What are the revolutionary action researches?*  
 48. *What are the subversive action researches?*  
 49. *What are the destructive action researches?*  
 50. *What are the annihilating action researches?*  
 51. *What are the obliterating action researches?*  
 52. *What are the eradicating action researches?*  
 53. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 54. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 55. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 56. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 57. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 58. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 59. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 60. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 61. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 62. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 63. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 64. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 65. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 66. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 67. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 68. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 69. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 70. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 71. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 72. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 73. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 74. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 75. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 76. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 77. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 78. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 79. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 80. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 81. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 82. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 83. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 84. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 85. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 86. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 87. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 88. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 89. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 90. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 91. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 92. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 93. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 94. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 95. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 96. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 97. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 98. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 99. *What are the exterminating action researches?*  
 100. *What are the exterminating action researches?*

[illegible]

water cuts



At the front we use double wishbones. They are more expensive to produce than a conventional strut system but they are far more durable. Better still, they significantly improve

It is unusual in having five struts. Most cars in this class have four. The benefit is

To reduce noise and vibration still further, we mount both the front suspension and the rear suspension on separate sub-frames. That, too, is rare in cars of this size.



Mercedes-Benz  
Engineered like no other car.



## news

# Blair's promises fail to soften Northern grit

It takes a drive down a cobbled street into a scene that could have been painted by Lowry to reach the turn-of-the-century, red brick factory of James Halstead Ltd, a Bury-based manufacturer of vinyl flooring. It would be hard to feel more removed from the corridors of Westminster than this.

But it is the reactions of the managers running businesses like these that will determine whether Labour's policies for manufacturing will work, after a period that has seen jobs in the sector almost halve since 1979 and recent investment run in real terms at below the level achieved then.

The three key planks of the policy – a stable economy, the

What does business and industry foresee from a Labour government?  
**Diane Coyle investigates in Lancashire**

encouragement of long-term investment and improved skills – are uncontested. The specific twists – changing the structure of capital gains tax, for example – are more so.

Yet on the whole, businesses do not object to these Labour priorities. Nor, however, do they think these are things a Labour government could deliver, or at least deliver any better than the Tories.

Roy Murphy, James Halstead's managing director, is not especially hostile to Labour. He

just thinks, like many businessmen, that the best thing government can do for industry is precisely nothing. "The only thing that has affected my investment decisions is whether we had a good business case. Is it necessary and is there a pay-back?" he says.

Low inflation and interest rates are crucial, he says. It is a widely-shared opinion. A few miles from Halstead's lies Chadwicks, a Swedish-owned manufacturer of food packaging. Its managing director,

Stephen Crow, underlines that a £4m piece of equipment can take well over two years to deliver and install. "German businesses have been able to predict what interest rates and inflation

would be in four years' time. For the first time in my working life there is a culture of stable inflation in this country. It makes long-term investment much more viable." But he trusts the

Conservatives more than Labour to deliver that. "I'm sure I could live with Tony Blair if he's as good as his word. But I don't believe he can control his left wing."

There is surprisingly little enthusiasm for the temporary extra capital allowances which Gordon Brown has proposed – even at P&P, a high-tech computer services company a few miles north of Bury which represents the new face of North-west business. But John Atkin, its finance director says his firm's major overhead is the continuous training needed to keep pace with that change.

"We have to train all the time, and if the Government is prepared to subsidise us for it, that's great. We would welcome more encouragement for training."

He, however, is suspicious of Labour's desire to implement the EU Social Chapter – a distrust that is near universal among businessmen who believe that the new flexibility of the UK labour market has given them an advantage over Continental competitors.

Halstead's employs up to 30 temporary contract workers out of a total of about 500 and uses overtime extensively to vary output. "Other European firms would give their right arm for that benefit," Roy Murphy says.

But there is surprisingly little objection to the minimum wage. Smaller companies are the most worried. DRM is a family-owned textiles business, making up items for the health service and commercial laundries. Its staff of machinists is mainly female, employed on piece work, earning £4 to £5 an hour, depending on productivity – a differential which a legal minimum makes harder to maintain. Peter McGuinness, its managing director, says: "We had to spend a lot of effort making sure the wages council agreements were followed. Since their abolition, employees have not suffered and it has freed up a lot of our time."

Mr McGuinness's top priority for government action, however, is the benefits trap. There are three single mothers on his staff, and one who has just quit. "Caroline could make £180 or £200 a week before tax working here, or £140 a week with no tax on benefits. People

like her end up in a position where working does them no good. They can't better themselves."

Businesses identify other pressing problems. Agreement on the failure of the education system to deliver an adequate workforce is unanimous. Mr McGuinness says he does not hire school leavers. "We're better off taking people who are more mature and know you have to turn up to work on time." School-leavers arrive thinking 50 per cent is a good mark in an exam. They cannot adjust to quality targets that

**Blair dashes public sector's hopes**

The Independent yesterday. But what about the bosses?

have to be met nearly 100 per cent of the time, he says.

Perhaps the biggest encouragement for Labour is how pro-European the Northerners are. They see the Government's split over Europe as damaging their interests.

While businesses in Bury think they can do business with Labour, the biggest task facing Tony Blair and Gordon Brown is one they can probably only fulfil in office – making the business community trust them. Labour says it will run a stable, low-inflation economy. These businessmen will believe that when they see it.



Streetwise: The cobbled path to James Halstead in Bury. Since 1979 manufacturing jobs in the region have halved Photograph: Phil Noble/Newsteam

which rewards programme is the best



## Perhaps you need some more facts:

Inside Flyer magazine named Membership Rewards the Best Affinity Credit Card programme of 1996. "By a staggering majority, American Express comes first, wiping out all rivals..." "Once enrolled you can enjoy a great range of rewards-including complimentary flights through a choice of eight frequent flyer programmes. You gain points with virtually every purchase you make on the Charge, Credit or Corporate Card. These points don't expire as long as you're a Cardmember. Plus if you use the Card to book with our partners, you gain their programme points as well as valuable Membership Rewards Points. Any more questions?

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

**0800 700 767**



Cards

## Opt-out schools plan centres for problem pupils

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

Dozens of grant maintained schools are keen to open special units for disruptive children, it emerged yesterday. The centres could charge fees to look after other schools' problem pupils.

Plans to allow opted-out schools to run separate facilities for trouble-makers, announced by the Prime Minister last September, have proved very popular.

As well as bringing some schools extra income, they will prevent high levels of exclusion, which school inspectors dislike.

The Government is likely to offer £1m over the next three years to opted-out schools which want to run school-based centres for pupils who might otherwise be excluded. Instead of being told they must seek another school place, problem children will be allowed to stay on their school's roll but will be taught separately.

Officials at the Department for Education and Employment have received 61 expressions of interest and 15 firm bids from opted-out schools keen to join the scheme.

John Major announced last year that he would like to see opted-out schools running these centres, and the idea was mentioned in a White Paper in June. Ministers are also considering legislation to let groups of grant maintained schools jointly set up special units for pupils with problems.

However, plans for single-

school centres to open next January are already well advanced, with bids for the funds due in by the end of September. Until now, most units for disruptive children have been run by local authorities and have been for those who have already been excluded.

There are no plans to allow grant maintained schools to run boarding facilities for pupils with behavioural problems, though. There had been reports that new centres surrounded by barbed wire would help to contain those children.

Sir Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Trust, said the moves would be welcomed by schools.

"There is a small percentage of disruptive pupils in our schools who cause mayhem out of proportion to their numbers," he said. "It is right that they should be off-site where they cannot damage the education of the 97 per cent who want to learn."

Cecil Knight, head teacher of the grant maintained Small Heath School in Birmingham, also welcomed the plans, though he said an internal unit which had been run for many years for pupils at his own school was being disbanded.

"We found it was rather an expensive way of dealing with it, but there were clearly some heads who want it," he said. "The idea is that if you take on a youngster from another school they would pay. You aren't going to make a huge profit but you could certainly cover your expenses."

Photograph: David Appleby/Miramax



**RENAULT**  
CARS  
WITH FLAIR

\*Fluoride often subject to dental decay to all new Resinart cars (including special edition vehicles) and is required by 31 August 1998. Vehicle structures available to request. Good facilities provided and arranged by JPS Ltd, City Road, Chester 3 CH99 3AN. \*\*A CAO Administration fee is payable when the car is being equipped and a CAO option to purchase by instalment is payable with the first monthly payment. Payment, amount at time of going to press indicates 17.2% VAT and "buy-in" charge of £275 which covers delivery to the dealer, motor plate, vehicle delivery and 6 months depreciation, road test licence. Other goods or services available by agreement between the customer and dealer are not included. See also the 12,000 unit/year contract delivery scheme with a 10% membership fee on 3-year anti-rust warranty and Resinart Accident Service. Facing 7th advertisement is placed on behalf of the vehicle supplier, Resinart UK Limited, Walsley Place, Lichfield LD9 4AT, and not individual franchise holder.



## international

## Saxony battles Brussels in VW subsidy row

IMRE KARACS  
Zwickau

The robots on the assembly line and their human assistants do not have much time to worry about Europe's future.

Every two minutes another car body arrives on its spiralling journey around the hall of the cavernous Volkswagen factory, each completing the course in 20 hours.

The new plant at the edge of Zwickau is the pride of the company and the most potent symbol of eastern Germany's renaissance.

Its fame is spreading far and wide, but in the wake of fame has come envy, turning its vaunted efficiency into a source of embarrassment.

The European Commission has ruled that VW must return the subsidies it received from the region of Saxony and said the case may touch off a "subsidy war" if left unchallenged.

"We are confronted here with an illegal situation. If VW

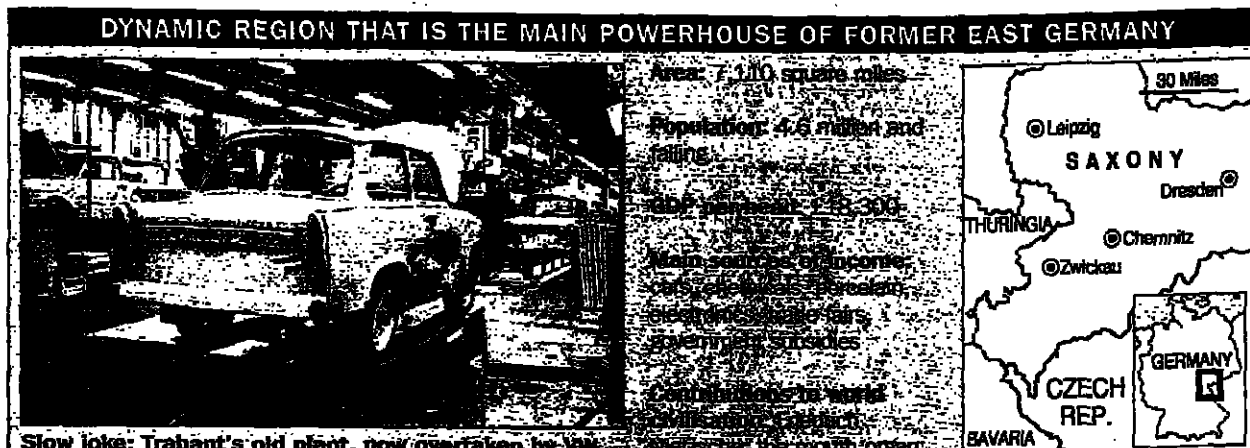
spends the money, we can only take this to the European Court of Justice," the Competition Commissioner, Karel van Miert, said.

But the Land Prime Minister, Kurt Biedenkopf, told Brussels to mind its own business. He has handed over part of the sum and is threatening to sue the Commission. Saxony's defiance has put Germany on a collision course with Europe.

If Europe holds firm, VW threatens to move farther east, to countries in Central Europe beyond the Commission's reach.

"I think that if the right decision is not given, Volkswagen must consider taking its production elsewhere," said the Zwickau plant's spokesman, Gunter Sandmann. He said it was not a bluff, in what has become a spectacular game of poker.

At stake are 3,000 jobs at Zwickau and Chemnitz near by and 10 times as many working for outside contractors, the



Slow joke: Trabant's old plant, now operation by VW

suppliers that feed the assembly lines "just in time", and the service sector.

The plant's importance to the local economy is unquestionable. The rubble of the old Trabant factory has been cleared away but Zwickau's streets are still lined with derelict red-brick workshops and industrial monuments of a bygone era. A third of the pre-1990 population

of 140,000 fled to wealthier parts in the west, yet unemployment still stands at 17 per cent, not counting those on temporary job-creation programmes.

"Volkswagen gave us the only great hope here after the changes," said Jens Rothe, a former Trabant worker and then fitter-turned-chairman of the works council at the new plant.

Mr Rothe, 26, recently attended his school's 10-year reunion. About 20 per cent of his former classmates have gone west and 15 to 20 per cent are on the dole.

The only other industrial employers in the former factory town are the brewery and a chemical plant that keeps shedding its work-force.

It sounds bleak but Zwickau

is one of eastern Germany's success stories, and Saxony the main engine of the former German Democratic Republic's resurgence. Away from the warehouses, the spruced-up town centre oozes prosperity, shops, restaurants and hotels wallowing in money sucked in by the factory on its northern edge. A few Trabants discreetly parked in sidestreets are all

that remind inhabitants of their inglorious tradition. In place of stores devoid of consumer goods, residents are spoilt by modern malls, showrooms and Mercedes dealerships. Six years after reunification, the town is in danger of yuppification. Prices are significantly lower than in the west, the service incomparably better.

The future of the region seems bright. Siemens is building a DM4bn (£1.8bn) microchip factory in Dresden, the Saxon capital, while investment pouring into Leipzig is set to transform it into one of Europe's great trade centres. Motorways and high-speed rail networks are coming, the new telecommunications system is state of the art, and energy and water networks built to cope with soaring demand are nearly complete. Saxony's cultural scene, too, is throbbing with excitement. In short, it is not the sort of place, the EU argues, which needs vast amounts of

taxpayers' money to stay afloat. Shortly after 1990 the Commission approved the full VW investment package, which the company then suspended during the slump in 1992-93.

Now VW wants to complete the project, to make the plant ready for production of the new Passat in autumn and the updated Golf model that will start rolling off next year.

The buildings already stand, but without new equipment they, and the rest of the plant, are useless. The sum in question is DM1bn, of which Saxony is prepared to pay DM750m. The Commission says that is DM240m too much.

The Saxons are adamant that the Commission is not fit to make such a decision. "If you are in Brussels, you can't tell if some region needs five million marks to help stop unemployment," argued Mr Biedenkopf, in the most forceful demonstration yet of what the Germans mean by the word "federalism".

## Perot saves his billions and seeks contributions

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

In a surprise opening gambit to his 1996 White House bid, the billionaire Ross Perot said yesterday he would rely for money on federal funds and contributions from individual supporters — a signal that he plans to make the reform of campaign finance a central theme of his uphill quest for the presidency.

"I want to show Washington that millions of people will contribute to a cause they believe is in the best interest of the country," Mr Perot said, explaining why he would not draw upon his own fortune of an estimated \$3bn.

That cause, as during his first presidential run four years ago, still revolves around Mr Perot's insistence on balancing the federal budget. He is already rocking the promise by the Republican candidate Bob Dole of a \$548bn across-the-board tax cut as an example of "Washington at its worst". But with President Bill Clinton able to boast that the deficit is now at

THE US  
PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS '96

its lowest since the Carter years, campaign finance reform will come a close second as an issue.

Since 1992 Mr Perot has already lavished about \$80m on his political ambitions, starting with his attempt that year for the White House, and his subsequent creation of the Reform Party, whose candidate he is and which is likely to be on the ballot in all 50 states this autumn.

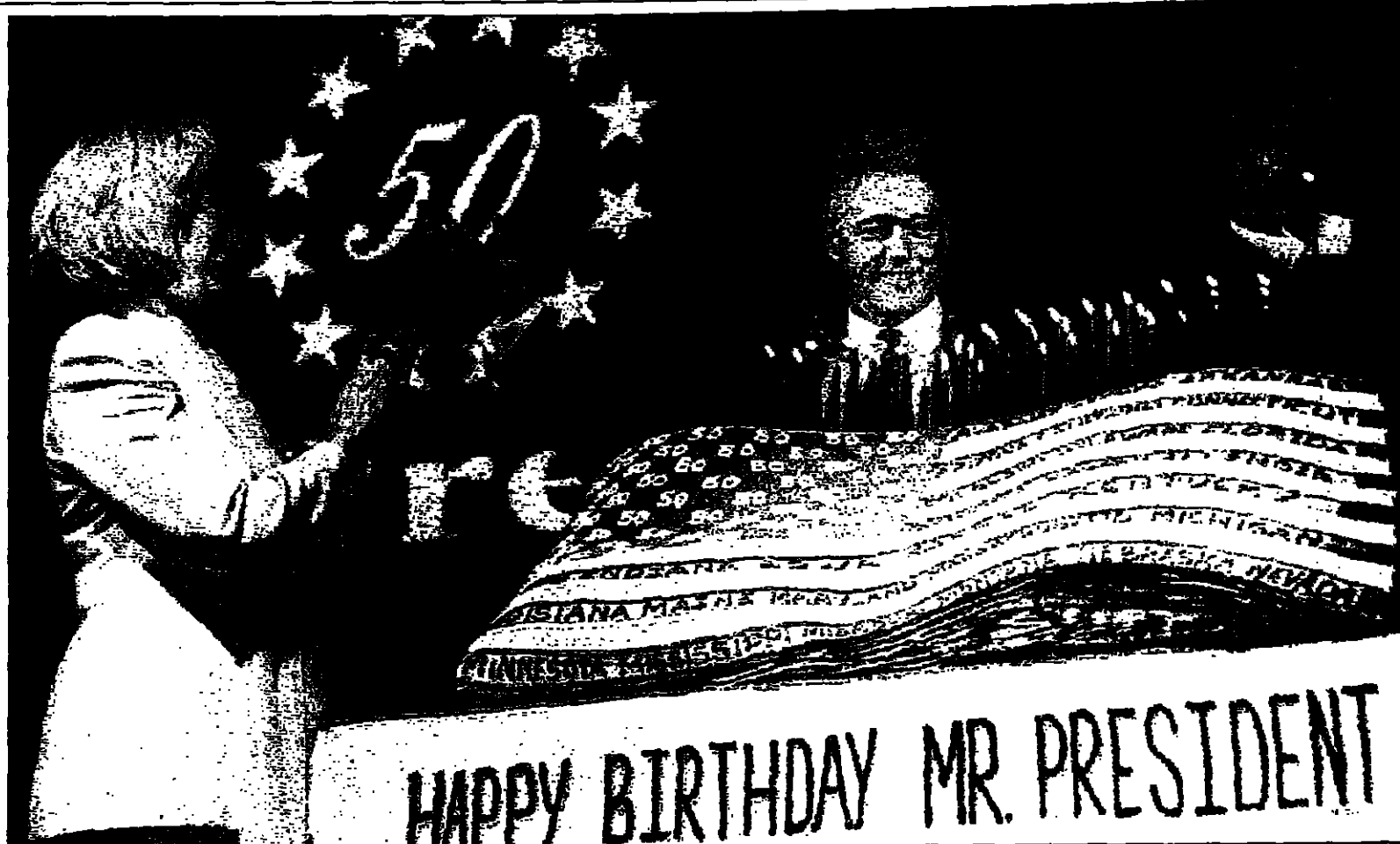
Mr Perot's decision means he is entitled to \$29m of federal funds, a sum based on the 19 per cent of the popular vote he won four years ago. But he will be permitted to spend only \$50,000 of his own money, and will therefore have to raise \$33m in small individual donations, as he is entitled to do, if he is to match the \$62m available to the Clinton and Dole campaigns.

Making that task harder, Mr Perot also says he will refuse

contributions by political action committees, a prime source of finance from corporations and special interest groups which he declares to be a scourge of Washington.

Yet as the Republican convention in San Diego showed — and its Democratic counterpart in Chicago will shortly show, corporate money flows as fast as ever. Half the \$30m cost of the San Diego convention has been met by companies. "You saw the yachts, the special interest events," Mr Perot said on CNN's Larry King show. "You don't think these guys want something in return?"

The conventional wisdom is that Mr Perot has no chance of repeating his 1992 performance. Erstwhile Perot supporters, it is said, are now likely to return to the Republicans and Bob Dole, visibly re-energized by the success of the convention and the impact of his vice-presidential choice, Jack Kemp. Mr Perot by contrast has yet to find a credible running mate. But if he can, then he may yet win enough votes to tip the outcome.



To the aid of the party: President Bill Clinton's 50th birthday celebration was expected to raise \$10m for the Democrats

Photograph: Reuters

## Bosnia refugees in poll limbo

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Sarajevo

Almost a million displaced people in Bosnia are unlikely to be able to return to their homes to vote in the country's elections, officials in Sarajevo said yesterday. The news reinforces fears that Bosnia's division into two parts may prove irreversible despite the best intentions of the Dayton agreement.

The director general of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Jeff Fischer, who is supervising the 14 September elections, suggested that if the displaced people were unable to return to their former homes,

facilities might be provided elsewhere for them to vote for candidates in the areas that they had fled to. About 850,000 people, out of a total electorate of some 3 million, are displaced.

Mr Fischer's suggestions prompted speculation that alternative polling stations might be set up along the 600-mile border between the two entities in Bosnia, but senior officials were quick to play that down.

Senior sources in the OSCE and in the peace implementation force, I-For, said Bosnian voters would probably realise it was not in their interest to vote in, or for, areas where there was no chance they would live again. Muslims returning to a home in

Srebrenica, a former Muslim town now in Republika Srpska, for example, would find no Muslim candidates. Similarly, Serbs returning to the Muslim-Croat federation would be unable to vote for Serb candidates.

The Dayton peace agreement endorsed the right to vote in one's former home area, but I-For has effectively admitted it cannot ensure the safe return of displaced persons. Officials are confident most people will vote from their present location.

Some observers in Sarajevo yesterday condemned the idea of giving up the right to return home, saying it enshrined the division of Bosnia. However, I-For

sources believe the return of refugees to small isolated enclaves could restart the conflict.

Wherever the refugees cast their votes, on 14 September Bosnia will elect a three-person presidency, an all-Bosnia assembly, and separate assemblies for the Muslim-Croat federation and Republika Srpska. Voters will also elect a president for Republika Srpska, 10 cantonal assemblies for the federation, and about 150 local councils.

It is as if, on the same day, Britons voted for a new monarch, for assemblies in England, Scotland and Wales, for a monarch of Scotland, for deputies for 10 regional assemblies in England, and in local elections.

## Australian parliament stormed in cuts protest

ROBERT MILLIKEN  
Sydney

Amid scenes unprecedented in Australia, dozens of chanting rioters yesterday stormed Parliament House in Canberra, smashing its front doors and leaving its public entrance hall spattered with blood. They threw acid and urine at more than 300 riot police who were called in to control the violence. It erupted when about 25,000 trade union members and Aborigines marched on Parliament House to protest against the federal government's plans to cut public spending and reduce union power.

More than 60 police were injured, 50 people were arrested and Parliament House's entrance, marble hall and souvenir shop were turned into a battle zone. A hard-core of leaders had pushed against the front doors, smashed windows and ripped iron rods from walls to use as battering rams. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, whose conservative Liberal-National coalition government is due to deliver its first budget today, toured the site and called the episode "a very sad and unhappy day in the life of the Australian parliament".

"What occurred was un-Australian. It was ugly. It endangered the physical well-being of men and women in the Australian Federal Police



Bloodied: A protestor confronts a policeman during yesterday's riot in Canberra

Photograph: Reuters

and Parliament House staff," he said. "I want to make it perfectly clear that never, under any circumstances, will my government buckle to threats of physical violence or behaviour of this kind."

Mr Howard cancelled talks on the budget he had been due to hold with the Australian Council of Trade Unions. He said that although he did not blame the council directly for the riot, the council had sponsored the rally that sparked the violence.

Thousands of union members and other community groups from all over Australia had arrived in Canberra for what was billed as one of the biggest union protests the capital has seen. It turned into a violent and

bloody end to 13 years of industrial peace that had accompanied the former Labor government's "accords" with the union movement.

Since its election last March, Mr Howard's coalition has announced plans to reform industrial relations by replacing collective wage bargaining with individual workplace contracts. There have been violent demonstrations at various industrial sites over the past few days, especially in Melbourne.

The government plans to use today's budget as the first shot in a strategy to cut up to A\$8bn (£4bn) from public spending. Some of those caught up in the riot were Aborigines protesting at an 11 per cent cut in spending on indigenous Australians.

## Manila and rebels hail end of war

Malabang (Reuters) — President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines and the Muslim leader Nur Misuari embraced each other yesterday, declaring that a war which has killed 120,000 Filipinos was over. "We have agreed to ... restore peace," said Mr Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front.

The meeting was meant to help finalise a plan that has attracted opposition from the Christian majority on the main southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Some groups have threatened to take up arms against the pact, scheduled to be signed at the end of the month. In his speech Mr Ramos said he would not tolerate violent opposition to the pact, which involves setting up a peace and development council with Mr Misuari as its head.

Mr Misuari referred to problems that needed to be ironed out before the pact could be put into effect, although he did not specify them. "The council is ... Ramos's baby, not mine. It is up to the President to nurture this baby to maturity." The pact envisages the council as a prelude to an expanded, Muslim-led autonomous region covering 14 southern provinces. Muslims regard Mindanao and its nearby islands as their traditional homeland, even though they are in a minority there following decades of Christian migration.

MARKS & SPENCER  
SAFETY WARNING.  
BUCKS FIZZ  
(ALL SIZES ALL FLAVOURS)

Marks & Spencer has become aware that a small number of bottles of StMichael Bucks Fizz have exploded during storage.

As a result customers are urged to open carefully any bottles of StMichael Bucks Fizz immediately (in accordance with the instructions on the back label) and to dispose of the contents to waste.

Bottles should be returned to any Marks & Spencer store where a full refund will be given.

No other StMichael wines are affected.

Marks & Spencer apologises for any inconvenience caused.

MARKS &amp; SPENCER



# 'This man was freed from prison after three years and began again with the little girls'

The little girls' faces stare out from the posters. But the appeals for help in finding them have been replaced with two simple words: never again.

As the investigations in Belgium's own house of horror continued yesterday, anger was mounting.

When missing girls Laetitia Delhez, 14, and Sabine Dardaine, 12, were found alive in a makeshift concrete dungeon last Thursday, there was rejoicing. Joy turned to shock, however, when the bodies of eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo were exhumed from the garden of convicted rapist Marc Dutroux in Sars-la-Buissière on Saturday.

Their faces had become familiar to all from posters their families had distributed around the country in a desperate attempt to find them. Now the same photographs are on every newspaper's front page.

As the full horror of the child sex scandal became apparent, the mood turned angry. There was fury at Melchior Wathelet, the former Minister of Justice, who allowed the early release from jail of Dutroux, the 39-year-old electrician at the centre of a suspected paedophile ring.

There was bafflement that the police could have visited Dutroux's home in Sars-la-Buissière near Charleroi in the south of the country and failed to find anything - even when he was arrested and served time for robbery last year.

But most of all there was a raging hatred for Dutroux himself, his second wife Michelle Martin - who was formally charged yesterday with being an accomplice in the abduction and illegal imprisonment of children - and the rest of the gang who have violated children in a country where the family is held sacred. A fourth person, Brussels businessman Jean-Michel Nihoul, is due to appear in court today.

"He should die," said Coralio Sacra, as she gazed at the rising mound of flowers at the drive to Dutroux's home. "For the sake of those little children, he has killed them and he must die. It isn't normal what he did."

It was a sentiment echoed throughout the village, whose 700

**Louise Jury on the anger in Sars-la-Buissière at the deaths of children in their midst**

citizens can scarcely believe what was going on in their midst.

Dutroux had moved to the village with Ms Martin three or four years ago after his early release on good behaviour from a 15-year sentence for rape.

Mohammed Taleb, who lives in a village nearby, hugged his two children tightly as he said: "It's horrible. Everybody wants to kill him."

André Levaey, the local mayor, said they all felt sadness and revulsion. "For crimes like paedophilia, any attempt on the life, or security or health of children, people who are found guilty should stay in prison for the whole of their sentence," he said.

"We don't want to go back to the Middle Ages, we don't want anything extreme. But we do want justice."

Meanwhile Gloucestershire police, who investigated the Crownwell Street murder inquiry which led to the discovery of the remains of 10 young women and girls at the Gloucester homes of builder Frederick West and his wife Rosemary, were asked yesterday to give advice on the Sars-la-Buissière case.



Dutroux: At the centre of a suspected paedophile ring

ing, they had the uncanny knack of finding their way to his house. It was robbery that put him away for the few crucial months last year when Melissa and Julie starved to death in his cellar.

"We knew he was a thief but nobody knew he was convicted for rape. People feel they should have been told. Everybody is shocked," said neighbour William Caplan.

When Dutroux was arrested last Tuesday, people at first thought it was connected to the assorted vehicles of dubious origin he kept in his yard.

As outrage mounts, fuelled by fear that another six children missing in Belgium since 1989 may also have lost their lives to paedophiles, a clear demand is emerging: justice. For some, that is the return of the death penalty, which was formally abolished in 1991. But most

want the guilty to stay inside for a very long time.

Alfred Vilain and his wife Alphonsa, had travelled from Lyons carrying a petition demanding a penalty to be introduced which was fitting for crimes so incomprehensible. More than a thousand people have signed so far.

"People in Belgium are very angry," Mr Vilain said. "This man was in prison before and he was free after three years inside and began again with the little girls."

Mohammed Taleb, who lives in a village nearby, hugged his two children tightly as he said: "It's horrible. Everybody wants to kill him."

André Levaey, the local mayor, said they all felt sadness and revulsion. "For crimes like paedophilia, any attempt on the life, or security or health of children, people who are found guilty should stay in prison for the whole of their sentence," he said.

"We don't want to go back to the Middle Ages, we don't want anything extreme. But we do want justice."

Meanwhile Gloucestershire police, who investigated the Crownwell Street murder inquiry which led to the discovery of the remains of 10 young women and girls at the Gloucester homes of builder Frederick West and his wife Rosemary, were asked yesterday to give advice on the Sars-la-Buissière case.



Mark of respect: People gather to sign a book of mourning for murdered schoolgirls Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo

Photograph: AFP

## Paedophiles who prey on youngsters worldwide

Internet aids information exchange on victims, reports Jason Bennetto

The investigation into an alleged paedophile ring operating from Belgium highlights the growing phenomenon of the international child abuser.

The discovery of the bodies of two eight-year-old girls in a garden in southern Belgium is the latest child-sex scandal to hit the country. A former official from the Justice Ministry and the director of a children's charity were among 16 people convicted in Belgium's biggest child-sex case.

Police and experts on sex offending have noted the development of international links between paedophile groups.

Ray Wyre, an adviser on sexual abuse for the British-based Lucy Faithfull Foundation, said paedophile cells operated throughout Europe, and can range from a few people to about 20 abusers. "We have seen a resurgence of paedophiles in Europe. Often they meet via clubs, Holland is particularly popular, or through personal contacts," he said.

In December last year a former Briton living in Belgium died from a heart attack before reaching court on child-sex

charges. John Stamford, 56, was due to face charges in Belgium alleging he provided information on child prostitutes to paedophiles around the world.

Stamford was alleged to have used a homosexual travel guide, *Spartacus*, as a front for a mailing service offering information on child prostitution in Thailand, Brazil and the Philippines. The organisation was alleged to have operated through a box number in London. The details of each of the members, including their sexual prefer-

ences, the desired age of the children and preferred countries of origin were stored on a computer. The members received personalised lists of children.

Paedophile groups, of which there are an estimated 200 in Britain, will go to great lengths to cultivate the trust of their victims. This was illustrated last month when Steven Mitchell, 44, from Watlington, Oxfordshire, became the first Briton to be convicted in the Philippines under new laws aimed at "sex tourism". Mitchell was jailed for

17 years after he was found guilty of sexually molesting two boys, aged eight and four. He had befriended a poor Filipino couple and paid for improvements to their house in order to gain access to their sons.

An estimated 200,000 Nepalese children have been sold into sexual slavery in India; in Thailand up to a quarter of a million children work in brothels; and in Colombia one third of prostitutes are thought to be under 14.

But it is the Internet which

many police officers believe is becoming the biggest danger, as paedophiles use it to transfer detailed information about children.

Belgium's worst case involving paedophiles came to court in 1988 when 16 people, including the former head of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for Belgium, were sentenced for up to 10 years in jail. Several adults who had lent their children to adults for sex were among the defendants. Philippe Carpentier, a former Justice Ministry official, was sentenced to nine years.

## Renewing your home insurance in August or September?

**If you are 50 or over, save with SAGA Home Insurance**

You will know how expensive home insurance can be, particularly if your insurance company is also having to insure younger, less careful householders. Thankfully, if you are aged 50 or over you can benefit from SAGA Home Insurance - a superior household insurance that is only available to mature, responsible people like you.

SAGA Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions. So if your home insurance is due for renewal soon, or if you would simply like to find out how much you could save with SAGA Home Insurance, call us today - free.

**The Saga Price Promise**

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

**SAGA**  
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so.



- Cover is comprehensive and low cost
- Free Saga Assist Service - 24 Hour Domestic Helpline, 24 Hour Legal Helpline, 24 Hour Glazing Service
- Discounts for home security
- Free pen with your quotation

**Call us today**  
For your free no obligation quote and a free Saga pen, simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

**0800 414 525 ext.3885**  
Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Alternatively, send this coupon to us in an envelope - you do not need a stamp:  
Saga Services Limited, FREEPOST731, Middleburg Square, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1BR

Mr / Mrs / Miss Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: Mr. / / Mrs/Miss: / /  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of bedrooms: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Renewal Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Detached House: \_\_\_\_\_ Semi-Detached House: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terraced House: \_\_\_\_\_ Detached Bungalow: \_\_\_\_\_  
Semi-Detached Bungalow: \_\_\_\_\_ Flat/Maisonette: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximately when was it built? \_\_\_\_\_  
Pre 1930 \_\_\_\_\_ 1930-1945 \_\_\_\_\_ 1946-1979 \_\_\_\_\_ 1980-Present \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the type of cover for which you would like a quotation:  
Home Contents Cover ☐  
Buildings Cover ☐  
Answer YES in the following and you could save up to 15% on your Contents premium.  
Does your home have an alarm? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Is a 3-lever mortice lock fitted to the front door? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Are all other external doors fitted with key-operated locks or bolts? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Are your windows fitted with all accessible windows? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Are you an active member of a Police Approved Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For Insurance on listed buildings, those of non-standard construction, flats and maisonettes, or if you are the landlord of the property to be insured, please telephone 0800 414 525 ext 3885 for your quote or tick the box for further details ☐

## VOTE FOR VALUE

**P5-120 MULTIMEDIA**

- Intel® 120MHz Pentium® Processor
- 16MB EDO RAM
- 256KB Pipeline Burst Cache
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" Monitor
- Western Digital® 2GB EIDE Hard Drive
- Creative Labs Vibra Sound Card and Altec Lansing ACS40 Speakers
- STB 2MB DRAM, 64 Bit Graphic Accelerator
- 15" Virtium® Colour Monitor
- Desktop/Mini Tower Case
- Windows® 95 105 Key Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows 95
- MS Generations Software Bundle
- Games Bundle
- MS Encarta® 96 (US version)
- SuperScape Virtual Reality Software
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

**£1149 (£1384.15 inc VAT and Delivery)**

**GATEWAY2000**  
"You've got a friend in the business."

For data of our full range of desktop and portable PCs, call us free or come in and see us at our showroom at 10 Basing Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9JG

Hours of business:  
12.00pm - 6.00pm Monday - Friday  
10.00am - 6.00pm Saturday  
10.00am - 6.00pm Sunday

Gateway 2000, Clonsilla Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland.  
Copyright © 1996 Gateway 2000 Limited. All rights reserved. Gateway 2000 is a registered trademark of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Pentium, Intel, Pentium and Gateway are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.  
Gateway 2000 is a registered trademark of Gateway 2000, Inc.

# international

## The great InterCity breakfast is now departing for Europe

Nicholas Faith tells how a revolution in rail catering at home has derailed the once legendary French fayre



Early platform: At King's Cross in 1938, a "fruit girl" begins a new service on a railway which now offers an exceptional British breakfast

Photograph: Hulton Getty



## At Sainsbury's you don't need a wishbone to get an offer like this.

Sainsbury's  
Sauvignon Blanc delle  
Tre Venezie 75cl  
£4.49 £3.49  
Save £1

Sainsbury's Jumilla 75cl  
£3.69 £2.99  
Save 70p

Fresh Grade A Whole  
Small Chicken 1.3kg  
£2.99 £2.39  
Save 60p  
per bird

Frozen  
New Zealand  
Whole Shoulder  
of Lamb  
SPECIAL  
PURCHASE  
£1.96  
per kg  
(equivalent to  
89p per lb)



SAINSBURY'S  
Pick up  
YOURS TODAY

There can be few more splendid places to start the day than the dining car of the early morning Edinburgh to London train. As it roars down the coast of Northumberland, waves crashing on the shore below, the full and elaborate works of a British breakfast is delivered, fresh from the kitchen. It is a magnificent feast.

This may soon be available more widely. OBS Services, the company which runs the catering for InterCity trains, is seeking to take its wares to Europe. A few years ago, the idea of British railway food being exported would have seemed lunacy, threatening even. But quite unnoticed, there has been something of a revolution. In Britain railway food is vastly improved, while in France, traditional home of *la grande gastronomie ferroviaire*, it has gone totally downhill.

It has taken nearly 150 years for British railway caterers to live down their reputation. Charles Dickens wrote a short story which centres on the buffet at the mythical *Mugby Junction* and his description would be instantly recognisable to anyone who travelled by rail within Britain until the 1980s. The narrator tells a benighted traveller "there is a refreshment room" at *Mugby Junction*, "but it's a blessed circumstance for you that it's not open". Later in the story the "Boy at *Mugby*" describes with great glee the "stale pastry", the "sawdust sandwiches" the "ha, ha, ha, - the sherry", the appalling off-handedness of the barmaids, and the magnificent, deliberate incompetence of Mrs Saiff who "did hold the public in check most beautiful. In all my time, I never see half so many cups of tea given without milk to people as wanted it with".

In another story, *A Flight* - describing a trip from London to Paris in a mere 11 hours via the newly opened railway from London to Folkestone - Dickens had already expressed his approval of the arrangements in a French refreshment room: "Large hall, long counter, long strips of dining-table, bottles of wine, plate of meat, roast chickens, little loaves of bread, basins of soup, little carafes of brandy, cakes and fruit."

In most countries "railway food" has generally been a term of approval. Switzerland's first railway was known as the "brotli-bahn" because it brought fresh *brotli* - rolls - from Baden to Zurich in time for breakfast. In the United States the railways played a positive role in spreading civilised dining, most famously through the efforts of a former freight agent called Fred Harvey. In 1875 he persuaded the Santa Fe railroad to let him manage a small restaurant in *Topeka*. He called it *Harvey House*, a name which became famous for civilised eating throughout the whole sprawling Santa Fe system west from *Topeka* in Kansas to Los Angeles. From the beginning Harvey determined to maintain only the highest standards of food, drink and delicacy of presentation - his first step was to hire a chef from the *Palmer House* in Chicago, supposedly America's finest hotel.

Today he is best remembered for the *Harvey Girls*, the highly respectable and presentable waitresses he employed, most of whom stayed only a few months before

marrying, generally very well. In the 1930s they and Harvey were accorded the greatest of accolades, a musical named *The Harvey Girls*, starring Judy Garland, with a song which remains a show-stopper, "The *Archison Topeka* and the *Santa Fe*".

Food invariably loomed large in any railway journey, especially those in undeveloped countries, and many otherwise obscure stops became famous (or infamous) for their dining facilities. At *Voi* weary travellers from Mombasa to Nairobi dined in a bungalow which Charles Miller in the book *Lunatic Express* said "looked every bit the oasis with its wine stewards, white-jacketed waiters and barmen". The main course "almost invariably consisted of iron boiled beef, rubber mashed potatoes and something that the menu called cabbage", the whole "garnished with insects".

But primitive lines did not necessarily involve poor eating. On the Trans-Caspian line that most pernicious of travellers, George Curzon, thoroughly approved of "first-rate tea at 1d a glass" and equally cheap, fresh grapes and melons. In Japan, each station prided itself on its own special lunch-boxes. A lady living at the otherwise obscure station of Yokokawa invented "kamameshi", a combination of rice packed with boiled prawns, mushrooms and suitable sauces which tasted just as good hot, tepid or cold. It remains famous, and people still make special trips to buy it.

But the home of fine rail catering remained France, from the dining cars with their fresh napery and fine wines to the station buffets with their welcoming aromas of coffee and fresh croissants and their posher brethren, station restaurants like the *Train Bleu* at the *Gare de Lyon* in Paris. Yet today most of these have been closed, or are merely relics of their former self.

The French have sacrificed this noble tradition in their quest for speed. In creating the world's finest high-speed rail network they have abandoned the notion of eating at all adequately, a disaster emphasised because they have proved totally unable to provide edible examples of "le fast food", so that virtually all French sandwiches, especially those served on TGVs, are vile. Indeed, throughout Europe, the standard of train food is not what it was. The Brussels to Milan service - beloved of European functionaries, as it stops in both Luxembourg and Strasbourg - once boasted a fine Pullman dining car, with starched linon, fine wines and a steak grilled to perfection. That came to a stop three years ago; now, there are little plastic trays of inedible pasta, microwaved to death. Besides this, the InterCity sizzler is the food of the Gods.



DNIFIC

OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL 31 AUGUST 1996. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAGROCENTRES. MERCHANDISE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SOME LINES ARE AVAILABLE AT LARGER BRANCHES ONLY. THE LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

WORLD COVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE  
CALL US ON 0800 365 121

سكنا من الامم



Patrick Cockburn visits Karak, gripped by curfew after bread riots

## Angry Jordanians ready for more trouble

"They will start again soon, God willing," said Nasser, a heavily built young man, as he lounged against the front wall of the burnt-out shell of the Jordan Bank in the centre of Karak. A bank clerk himself, he said he approved of what the demonstrators had done over the weekend, adding: "We don't want the government here."

Less than 100 yards away heavily armed Jordanian soldiers were sitting on an armoured personnel carrier guarding a crossroads. Their presence did not seem to make Nasser and his friends nervous. "Nobody is frightened here," he said. "At least the soldiers are

ence of the Jordanian army. Beside many of the armoured personnel carriers, the soldiers were sitting with local young men. "They are all the same family," a Palestinian driver from Amman said. "Where do you think the army and police are recruited from?"

The government is treading softly because Karak and the hill towns of southern Jordan are the bedrock of its support. But the riots which began after prayers last Friday were extremely fierce. "Seven banks were burned out here," the manager of the Arab Bank said as he poked through its blackened interior. "It will cost about \$50,000 to put this right."

Down the road, two yellow earth-moving machines were scooping out the ashes which are all that remain of the interiors of four shops unfortunate enough to be on the ground floor of the local ministry of education building which came under attack as a symbol of government authority.

It is not easy to get into Karak. Since Saturday the army and police have sealed the town off and imposed a curfew. After an abortive attempt to use the one road from the Dead Sea, I entered the city from the east, where I was curiously told by an army officer at a checkpoint to report to the police headquarters. Having first said I would have to wait "because a big boss is here", the deputy chief of police finally relented and signed a letter allowing me to go on.

Ever since the riots started, the government has been ambivalent over the best way to treat the demonstrators. People in Karak say that the over-reaction of the riot police, now withdrawn, swelled the initial protest. In some parts of the city, water and electricity have been cut off. Telephones only work within Karak and it is impossible to call Amman.

"About 350 people have been arrested and we heard from

somebody who was released that they are being knocked about by the police," a local observer, who did not want his name mentioned, said. He said that elite special forces, hitherto held in reserve within the medieval walls of the great crusader fortress of Karak, were beginning to advance into the town.

Down one alleyway Ahmed al-Garada, the elderly owner of the Shallalan Restaurant, was happy to talk about the cause of the riot. He said: "The problem is everything, not just bread, is very expensive. The poor cannot buy anything. Only the rich can afford to live." He was mystified by the claim of Iraqi involvement, as was everybody else in Karak, saying: "That is between the leaders, between King Hussein and Saddam [President Saddam Hussein]. It

is nothing to do with us." He added that he has had no water for three days.

As he spoke two soldiers entered the restaurant, but Mr Garada was unworried by their presence, which turned out to be in pursuit of a free meal. Two Egyptians standing nearby were much more anxious. "Do not mention our names," they said. "They could take us away just like that," one said, crossing his wrists in a gesture to indicate how quick he could be handcuffed.

In the background, Jordan Radio was giving the midday news, the lead item being a massacre in Algeria, followed by the Lebanese elections and events in Chechnya. Of Karak and the riots which have produced the biggest domestic crisis in Jordan this decade, there was no mention.



Market forces: Tomatoes and vegetables piled up in Karak, where prices are hitting the poor. Photograph: Reuters



Hussein: Troubled Kingdom

better than the police."

In Amman, 50 miles north of Karak, King Hussein and his Prime Minister, Abdul-Karim Kabariti, were confidently claiming that order had been restored and the riots which started last Friday, had been fomented by the Iraqis. "They say that because they have to say something," Mohammed, a construction worker who joined the group outside the Jordan Bank, said.

There is a reason why people in Karak, an ancient hilltop town with a population of 25,000, remain confident in the face of the overwhelming pres-

### SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

**M**uslim guerrillas disguised as policemen massacred 63 people, including children and women, in Algeria, the London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat* reported yesterday. Witnesses said around 100 gunmen on Saturday set up a roadblock and stopped two buses on the road linking the provinces of M'Sila and Batna, south-east of Algiers. The guerrillas, armed with shotguns, knives and axes and wearing "dirty uniforms", killed all those holding Batna identity papers, said witnesses. *al-Hayat* quoted its sources as saying the aim of the massacre was to "create tribal strife". The Algerian newspaper *el-Watan* said the guerrillas had killed 18 men by cutting their throats in two separate attacks. *Reuters - Cairo*

**G**unmen in Haiti opened fire on the National Palace and police headquarters in Port-au-Prince, killing a civilian worker, yesterday in the latest apparent effort to destabilise the new government. The attacks follow death threats against President Rene Preval and former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Mr Preval, who was installed in February, has blamed the attacks on soldiers in the former army that ousted Mr Aristide in 1991 and was disbanded after a US-led military intervention in October 1994. *AP - Port-au-Prince*

**G**erman firms' continued involvement in Libya's plans to build a chemical weapons factory was exposed by the arrest of two German businessmen accused of selling restricted technology to Tripoli. The criminal authorities in Mönchengladbach confirmed yesterday that two German firms were being investigated for shipping Dm3.2m (£1.4m) worth of computer systems to a Libyan contact in Belgium. An international arrest warrant has been issued for a third person, believed to be the go-between. *Imre Karacs - Mönchengladbach*

**F**ormer South African president FW de Klerk yesterday accepted the blame for apartheid crimes, and one of his generals acknowledged there had been "gross violation of human rights". General Constand Viljoen, former chief of the defence force and now leader of the right-wing Freedom Front party, told Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: "We certainly made a grave mistake when we allowed our political leaders to ignore the need for a timely settlement ... so we take collective responsibility for the situation that developed." *Reuters - Cape Town*

**S**paniards live up to their sociable reputation by spending more than anyone else on going out to eat and drink, and devoting the lion's share of their family budget to having fun, according to a survey by the Caja Catalana bank. It found that Spaniards spend 25.8 per cent of their income in bars, restaurants and hotels, compared with an average of 15.3 per cent in other developed countries. While the top seven OECD countries spend most of the family income - 20.4 per cent - on rent and household expenses, for Spaniards the figure is 13.1 per cent. *Elizabeth Nash - Madrid*

**T**he government of the canton of Zurich yesterday gave the go-ahead for a referendum that could result in the legalisation of cannabis. The Free Democratic Party says using cannabis should not be a punishable offence because 20 years of criminal prosecution has had no effect. It suggests the state should take over the trade and supervise quality. *Reuters - Zurich*

**F**innish police are planning to use a harpoon-like device to halt drivers who refuse to stop, according to a television report. The technique involves mounting a "harpoon gun" on the front bumper of traffic patrol cars, which can fire a projectile with hydraulically operated barbs into the boot of a fleeing vehicle. The harpoon is attached to a steel rope and officers in the pursuing car then apply their brakes to halt the runaway vehicle. *Reuters - Helsinki*

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL ROYAL MAIL CUSTOMERS.

### PLANNED NATIONAL STRIKES BY COMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION

Royal Mail regret to inform you that the CWU are continuing with their strike action following the rejection of an agreement reached between union negotiators and Royal Mail. The union's executive has also refused to allow its members to vote on the deal.

The union has called further strikes, and the next will be on Thursday August 22nd for 24 hours.

- Delivery and collection of letters will vary depending on local circumstances.
- Business customers should ring their normal Royal Mail contact.
- Special arrangements have been made to deliver G.C.S.E results to schools.
- Deliveries and collections will resume on Friday August 23rd.

Parcellforce services are unaffected.  
Post Offices will remain open as normal.

For up to date information, please call us on the following Customer Information Line:

**0345 740 740**

We will be doing all we can to keep disruption to a minimum, using available resources for both collections from business customers and to ensure pillar boxes are emptied. We apologise in advance for the inconvenience these strikes will cause and will ensure that your letter services return to normal as soon as possible.



Irish Guards.



# An ID card identifies only a love of power



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

The Government's scheme for a voluntary identity card is half-baked. Whitehall appears to be in disarray. The Northern Ireland Office is the latest department to register its doubts. It is worried by the presence on the card of the Union flag, which could easily look like a die-hard's political statement. Why all the political bother for the sake of a voluntary card? But if not the Union flag, then what? In the Tory party's present state, all European signs and symbols are going to be divisive. And what goes on the card in, say, Scotland? Will the Scottish Office not insist on some Scottish identifier? Before you can have an identity card, you have to have an identity. Little wonder further delays are expected for an announcement already overdue.

The Government's confusion is significant. In terms of practical governance it says something about the inability of departments to speak to one another, or even set up the rudimentary machinery that allows a cross-departmental decision to be taken; this is an old Whitehall problem which the Tories lately have made worse. Identity cards cut straight across the turf. The Transport Department has its own logistical nightmare in trying to transform our pink and anonymous driving licences (and how many people still have the old green ones?) into Euro-approved photo-bearing licences within

less than five years. Do we need both those and ID cards? The Department of Social Security has its plans for a claimants' card which, given its current atavistic mood, will probably include blood and DNA samples as well as photos and thumb prints. Meanwhile, there are complicated plans afoot involving the Treasury, Inland Revenue and the DSS to change the administration of National Insurance – a reminder that we already have national identification in the UK: we just call it NI and health service numbers. As for the Foreign Office, one of the ostensible purposes of the exercise is to provide a Euro-identifier acceptable to the police of other member states ... but what is wrong with a passport?

A national ID card is unnecessary and the Government deserves all the embarrassment it faces for not having thought more about it – preferring instead to dance to Michael Howard's ambitious piping. The problem is not just Ulster and its evidence that identity (and identification) cannot be imposed. A few years ago another ambitious Tory Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, got a well-deserved pasting for his attempt to impose identity cards on football supporters. Memories of that may have persuaded the Government away from making cards compulsory. To work, identity cards need to express consent (a lesson you might have thought had been learnt by a gov-

ernment that was forced to leave millions unpolled). When consent goes, the government and its police officers and soldiers and computers and tax officers approach powerlessness – and no true Conservative, or indeed anyone with sense, would wish that.

The argument against even a voluntary card is that we already possess several voluntary identifiers, from licence plates to debit card numbers, and no reputable case has been made for adding a "Howardcard" to their number. But, says Mr Howard in reply, there is a good reason for a card and it is crime. "Crackdown on crime may

boost Howard's stature," a sycophantic newspaper said the other day, conveniently eliding the appearance of doing something with actual changes in criminal behaviour or the effectiveness of the police. But how are voluntary cards going to be used to reduce crime? Isn't producing them going to be regarded as a ground for suspicion – in which case they cease to be voluntary? In how many instances of policing is the precise, photograph-assured identity of a person an issue in the detection or solution of crime? That, of course, is an empirical question, requiring evidence of a kind Mr Howard seems so

reluctant to commission or consider. There are, it's true, a number of specific problems in the state's relations with its citizens for which, superficially, ID cards provide an answer. Most have to do with public-sector fraud. Here the proponents of cards suffer from an acute attack of disproportion. Those who get so excited by social security fraud forget the scale of tax evasion, notably in the corporate sector. It is as if ripping off the state by claiming benefits falsely were so much worse than ripping off the state by under-declaring earnings or those complex schemes of avoidance which respectable firms of accountants are paid in gold to devise.

Should we all have identity cards because some company finance directors break the law? Of course not. So why then the hammer of a national scheme to crack the nut of housing benefit claims? Reducing such fraud involves painstaking, long-haul tracking by dedicated council officers, not gimmicks.

The state has a right and a duty to identify and number its citizens. It does this in many ways, through censuses, tax schemes and lists of many kinds. It would have the right, too, to concentrate some of the data it holds in a new, machine-readable card. But why? Every proposal to expand the ambit of the state demands the closest inspection. That principle of limited government used to be one that united members of the Conservative Party. They

could be relied upon to twitch their noses at any scent of government taking liberties. What has happened to a party that could once be relied upon – right or wrong – to sound a warning? Is the corruption of that Thatcherite love of state power still so strong in Mr Major's government that it can, still, proceed with a proposal with so little serious internal discussion? One look at Michael Howard and the only answer is yes.

## Bad service at a bargain price

We like to think of ourselves as a country of retail sophisticates – Tesco and Asda for groceries, John Lewis and House of Fraser for household goods and so forth. But according to new data we are turning into a country of rough shoppers which buys its food and detergents at Aldi and Lidl, and toys at Argos, whose catalogue sales techniques are borrowed from the US. You would not call either store sophisticated. At Aldi, personal service is minimal; at Argos you do it all yourself, short of lugging the goods out of the warehouse. Yet Aldi grew big last year and Argos's profits are up by nearly 50 per cent. A nation of shopkeepers is turning into a nation of bargain-hunters.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Handout to airlines from airport shops

Sir: Terence Conran ("What is an airport for?", 17 August) is quite right to point out that BAA's retailing activities are an unregulated monopoly and that BAA is seeking every way possible to boost this side of its business. The shopping element in its Terminal 5 application is the size of 12 supermarkets.

It is sometimes argued that BAA's retailing profits are acceptable because they finance the airports' infrastructure. But this is not what happens. Retailing profits subsidise airlines.

The way BAA is regulated is that its retailing profits are lumped together with its profits from airport charges – the "single till" approach. The Airports Act 1986 only gives BAA's regulators (the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Civil Aviation Authority) the power to regulate airport charges – retailing profits are exempt unless these activities are against the public interest. However, the MMC does not share Terence Conran's definition of the public interest. Therefore, the more BAA earns from retailing the more its regulators cap or reduce airport charges.

Airport charges at Heathrow are, as a result of this perverse regulatory regime, amongst the lowest in the world, leading to an insatiable demand for landing slots, endless expansion of the airport and the cause of such environmental damage to London.

The undercharging (and hence the subsidy) to profitable UK airlines and unprofitable foreign airlines is estimated to amount to between £250m and £500m a year – an amount which should accrue to the public purse. The Government cannot allow this subsidy to continue and must urgently review the regulatory regime and at the same time impose an environmental limit on the number of flights into Heathrow. GIDEON NELLEN London W1

Sir: Terence Conran is wrong when he bemoans the booming airport shopping business at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. As a frequent traveller through Heathrow, I can assure him that the new Terminal 1 is a vast improvement on the old, even though some of the departure lounges need refurbishment (has he not seen the new pier recently opened?).

If increased retail space is the price for making the whole terminal more spacious and user-friendly, then that's fine by me. If Sir Terence has ever had to endure a long delay at a major US airport, or even, say, in Athens, then I think he will appreciate better just what a world-class facility Heathrow airport is. RICHARD HOLDROP E-mail: RHoldrop@aol.com

### Mandelson under friendly fire

Sir: Last week Peter Mandelson was accused by Clare Short of being "a man in the dark". This week, Roy Hattersley complains that Mr Mandelson is "in the papers too often, on the television too often" ("Hattersley rails at too often" 19 August). Mandelson's profile? As I understand the matter, Peter Mandelson is a Member of Parliament and Labour



'Yes, we're looking for drug pushers. What A-levels have you got?'

### Flies in the primordial soup

Sir: Even with the most optimistic of assumptions the emergence of a primitive living system from a suitably constructed primordial soup, including amino acids, nucleotides etc., is an exceedingly improbable process ("Water found by the light of a Jupiter moon", 15 August). For instance, calculations by Fred Hoyle and myself, and independently by Francis Crick, have led to estimates for the odds against the occurrence of life that can only be described as being superastronomical.

As long as the Earth was the only planet where life is found a critic of "cosmic life" can take refuge in the statement that *a posteriori* statistics are irrelevant. Even the most improbable events do indeed occur, the critic could say, in defence of the paradigm of Earth-centred life. And in defiance of Copernican philosophy one might even assert that this exceedingly improbable – well-nigh miraculous – event took place here on the Earth.

The discovery of life on at least one other planet would instantly rule out this line of argument, however. Identical, superastronomically improbable transitions from non-life to life could not have happened independently on two separate planetary objects. It is immeasurably more probable that the two sites were either cross-infected, or co-infected from a common cosmic source. In either case the firm requirement is for microbial life to be transferred across astronomical

distances. Panspermia is vindicated and the Earth-centred primordial soup would seem to be ruled out. N C WICKRAMASINGHE Cardiff

### Bushrangers of the silver screen

Sir: Peter Porteous's memory (letters 10 August) serves him only half right. Peter Finch was certainly a dashing star of the 1957 film of *Robbery Under Arms* but the fictional Captain Starlight, not the historical Ned Kelly, was the hero of this fourth of five cinematic versions of Rolf Boldrewood's novel: the most recent (1985) had Sam Neill as the Byronic bushranger. Others were made in 1907, 1911 and 1920.

Porteous may have only got as far as Pinewood, but Finch and others in the cast spent several sweltering summer months in South Australia's Flinders Ranges (which for one thing could accommodate a mob of Herfordshire better than a studio back lot); despite the heat, Finch enjoyed himself, writing to his half-sister he had "lots of riding on the most wonderful horse in the world, Vektor", who galloped into the part of Starlight's horse, Rainbow.

Boldrewood, who was in fact Thomas Browne, a magistrate, based his story not on the exploits of Ned Kelly but on those of such other bushrangers as Ben Hall and Frank Gardiner. But the instant popularity of the tale, which was first published as a serial in the

*Sydney Mail* in 1882-83 then as a book in 1888 and has never been out of print since, was at least partly due to the notoriety of the Kelly gang. ALAN BRISSENDEN Burnside, South Australia

### First step to a ban on the bomb

Sir: Tony Barber, in his informed look at the debates clogging progress on a nuclear test ban treaty ("Is this our post-atomic dawn?", 13 August), insists that a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty "is not an act of nuclear disarmament and may not even serve as an incentive to disarmament".

In isolation, he is right about the CTBT. However, as part of a series of global actions leading finally to a global Nuclear Weapons Convention, the test ban would be an extremely important document.

On the same day as your article appeared, CND published its *Blueprint for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World*, co-authored by myself. The blueprint argues for an immediate start to negotiations leading to a Nuclear Weapons Convention that would bring about worldwide nuclear disarmament within 25 years.

The blueprint puts the case for a series of steps, starting with a CTBT and followed by a ban on the production of fissile materials, an agreement on a policy of No First Use of nuclear weapons, an international fund to support the costs of disarmament and other

actions designed to improve international security.

The irony of the Indian position is that they appear more committed to complete nuclear disarmament than any of the nuclear powers currently eager to secure a test ban. MARTIN JONES Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament London N7

### Children lose visual memories

Sir: One faculty previously held in abundance by children and now in decline ("The loss of our innocence", 15 August) lies within their visual awareness and experience. Art education has suffered not only from the reduction of visual memories of "outdoors" – landscape, street scenes, backyards etc. – which previously children could refer to, but also as a result of the young and impressionable receiving an increasing amount of imagery produced by computers and television.

Both primary and secondary school pupils demonstrate today a visual repertoire far inferior to that which existed even ten years ago. If the GCE Art examinations, which demanded a swift, feeling response to a set of titles for paintings or designs (which existed up to the 1970s) were to be set today it is difficult to imagine many candidates being able to cope adequately. In many art departments today that aspect of "remembered distilled experience" cannot be employed as a starting point. CHRISTOPHER C MCKLEY Art teacher Rudcliffe, Greater Manchester

### Fact-packed family life

Sir: R. Riley's letter (17 August) bewailing his daughter's lack of general knowledge, despite having gained a university place, is indeed appalling. What have the Riley family been doing? Have they never taken the daughter outside the family home? Never engaged in discussion around the lunch table or played quiz games on winter evenings? Have they never watched informative television programmes together?

The education of children does not take place exclusively between the hours of 9 and 4.30. Leap from your sofa, Mr Riley. It is not too late to make up for all those years of neglect. JANET WHITE Ringmer, East Sussex

Sir: R. Riley trots out the same complaint about students' lack of "general knowledge" that was levelled when I was a student 40 years ago and regularly since (and doubtless before) that time. There are two definitions of general knowledge: (i) things I know and think you ought to know too; (ii) things you've read up recently and I haven't. R. Riley clearly subscribes to the former. I recommend the latter to his daughter. Professor H S MICKLEME Edinburgh

Sir: I share some of the concerns expressed about the general knowledge of A-level students. However, there seems to be a simple solution. My daughter (just graduated in chemistry) and son (just completed A-levels) scored nearly 100 per cent on the questions set by R. Riley, and attributed their success to regular participation in pub quizzes. R K LITTLEJOHN Wyford, Berkshire

Sir: R. Riley's daughter must be thankful that her parent has just been granted a newspaper space. Now perhaps she can rest easy and look forward to an exciting time at university instead of overloading her talents with trivia. MICHAEL D MITCHELL Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire

### After Monkees

Sir: Although it is true that Mike Nesmith's mother invented Liquid Paper (not Tipp-Ex) and that the company was bought by Gillette in 1980, I suspect his non-appearance at the recent Monkees reunion is for reasons other than his inheritance (John Walsh, 15 August). Mike Nesmith left the Monkees and became in his own right a much-admired artist, with over 20 album releases, and a much sought-after record producer. LOUIS BERK E-mail: lberk@maple.wm-uk.net

### Porn free

Sir: Do the police understand how the Internet works? They may, indeed, succeed in removing some newsgroups from UK service providers' servers ("Police get tough on Internet's hard-core porn", 16 August). The only consequence of note will be the saturation of the UK's external bandwidth. With every server on the planet just a mouse-click away, their chances of removing all pornography from the Internet are the same as those of removing all the salt from the sea. PHIL PAYNE E-Mail: Phil@stivers.com



## analysis

# The real threat of Iranian terrorism

Although they pose little risk to Western targets on Western soil, the activities of Iranian extremists are driving a wedge between the US and Europe, writes Nicholas Bethell

Iran is the fountain of all terrorism, at least this was the word from Washington in the wake of the TWA disaster, violence in Bahrain and the explosion at Al-Khobar in Saudi Arabia. Press leaks from the US administration, some of them inspired by Secretary of Defense William Perry, on his return from the Persian Gulf, give the impression that the Ayatollahs have upped the terrorist stakes and are now embarked on a new policy of mass murder throughout the western world.

Strong American feelings about Iran date back to their expulsion from the country in 1979-80 and the hostage crisis, when the United States was humiliated, its foreign service most of all. Several key State Department officials from that wretched year, including Warren Christopher and Tony Lake, are in even more powerful positions today. There is a presidential election and Mr Clinton is expected to "do something" against Iran, which has few friends among those who will be voting in November.

Recently American officials have had to backtrack, at the same time analysing what Iranian terrorism actually is. What do these violent men of Islam do? What are their targets? Are they escalating their campaign? Western experts agree that, whereas Iran is undoubtedly among the world's worst terrorist nations, it is not yet in the business of attacking Western targets on American or European territory. Recent events offer no good reason why this analysis should be varied.

Their most blatant behaviour is reserved for action against individual Iranian dissidents. Twelve have been murdered in Europe so far this year, most of them members of the left-wing Mujahedeen ul-Khalq violent opposition movement, others of them former high officials from the Shah's regime. Iran admits nothing but it sees itself as entitled to kill Mujahedeen members. They are, after all, funded by the great enemy, Baghdad, and they carry out acts of violence inside Iran in pursuit of their declared aim, the overthrow of the Islamic republic.



The American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, (above) in January 1981, signing the agreement to end the American hostage crisis, which began in November 1979, when he was a key official in the State Department. Photographs: AP

Some days ago, I asked Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, why his government had named a nearby street after the hunger striker Bobby Sands, so giving the impression that Iran supports the IRA. He replied: "It is because you, in Britain, give safe haven to terrorists from the Mujahedeen, who kill our people. Men from your House of Commons and House of Lords receive them and speak up for them."

The Iranian chargé d'affaires in London, Gholamreza Ansari, says: "A large and unbelievable number of innocent civilian people, including a president and a prime minister, MPs and ministers, have been killed by the Mujahedeen in Iran." Iran's director of prisons, Assadullah Lajvardi, told me: "These Communists come into

our country and kill maybe 50 of our people. Should we leave them alone to kill another 50? They deserve to be executed." I am sure that Mr Lajvardi meant that such people should be "executed outside Iran as well as inside it. And he would see countries like Britain, France and Germany, which allow the Mujahedeen to operate politically, as their accomplices. He would think of Iran as a victim of terrorism rather than as a perpetrator.

However, it is not only the violent who are killed by Iranian agents. Two such men are today in prison in France, convicted of having cut the throat of the Shah's last Prime Minister, Shapur Bakhtiar, in Paris in August 1991. In Germany there is a warrant out for the arrest of Iran's Minister for Intelligence for

allegedly bombing a dissident group in Berlin in 1994. British officials believe that in recent years, 40 dissidents, by no means all of them violent, have been killed in Europe by the Iranian secret police, and others in Turkey and Iraq. In spite of the overwhelming evidence available to Western experts on the Bakhtiar case and others, the Iranian government refuses to admit that it has ever acted violently outside its own borders. "Show me your proof," said Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's Minister for Relations with Europe and America, when I put the Bakhtiar case to him. "These are no more than rumours dreamt up by our enemies in Iraq, or by Israel." But he knew, I think, that I did not believe him.

In one particular case Iran has been ready to act against a Western target. This is the matter of Salman Rushdie. The chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on Foreign Policy, Mohammed Larajani, says: "Iran has dissociated itself from the fatwa. There will be no Iranian hit squads trying to carry out the death sentence. These assurances ought to be enough for you, but Britain wants more. Britain demands that we sign a paper that amounts to an admission of guilt. This is unacceptable." Again, Dr Larajani was being less than candid. An Iranian religious foundation known as

"15th Khordad" still offers a \$2m bounty to anyone who kills the British writer. This is an incitement to murder that Iran does nothing to silence. Iran's protestation that its government cannot interfere in the finances of a private body does not impress the British side. Meanwhile, there are still, probably, Iranian agents keen to carry out what Ayatollah Khomeini ordered.

Another area of violence where Iran is active involves terrorism against Israel. British officials believe that Iranian agents were responsible for the bomb explosion and consequent loss of life at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires last year. Iran also, by its own admission, helps the Hizbollah movement in Lebanon, which fires rockets into Israeli territory. Iran will not concede that this amounts to complicity in terrorism.

Dr Zarif says: "Hizbollah has elected members in the Lebanese Parliament and it is not easy to call them terrorists just because they oppose the Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon. We help Hizbollah with food and medicines." Again, he is not telling the full truth.

A third category of Iranian terrorism involves the Persian Gulf area, especially Bahrain, where there is Shi'ite majority and where Iran has been closely engaged for many decades.

British experts are convinced that some at least of the recent violence in Bahrain is Iran's work, to the extent that some of those involved were trained in Iranian camps in subversive techniques and provided with equipment and money.

Yet even here, Iran admits nothing and tries to justify a strong political stance. Mr Vaezi says: "Why does the West emphasise Iran's human rights problems? Kuwait has no valid parliament at all. Neither does Bahrain. In Saudi Arabia, a woman cannot drive a car and Christian worship is forbidden. Yet you never criticise these countries. You only attack Iran. You are very selective." Inevitably one is brought back to the Al-Khobar bomb and the alarming reports emerging from Washington sources these past days. The difference between TWA and Al-Khobar is that, whereas there is no evidence at all to link Iran with the TWA outrage, any more than there is with the World Trade Center or Oklahoma or Atlanta explosions, there are some circumstantial features of the Saudi Arabian bombing that give rise to suspicion.

American experts are now no longer jumping to conclusions, but they are worried by how skilfully and effectively the Al-Khobar operation was carried out. They doubt whether Saudi Arabian dissidents on their own would be capable of such a spectacular achievement against a tough

American target. They sense foreign involvement and they know how deeply Iran resents the American military presence in Saudi Arabia.

They also detect in Iranian press reports of the explosion the same triumphalism as followed the bombing of the US Marine base in Beirut in 1984. The Iranian media is taking pains to remind Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states that the death of American Marines in 1984 was followed by American withdrawal from the Lebanon, with dire consequences for America's friends in that country.

American analysts, while agreeing that the evidence against Iran in this matter remains circumstantial, see this as a very threatening message. The experts do not, therefore, blame Iran for purely anti-Western outrages, although they are sure of Iranian guilt in the three categories of terrorism mentioned above.

For instance, they hold Libya, not Iran, responsible for the Lockerbie disaster. Even though Iran has an apparent motive for revenge – the accidental destruction of an Iranian airliner by an American missile – Iran's name is not in the frame over Lockerbie. The evidence assembled by the Scottish police, which cannot yet be made public, points clearly to the two named Libyan assassins.

British officials nevertheless remain suspicious of Iranian intentions in the Rushdie case and they believe that Iran has the ability to attack more Western targets in the West, if their policies should change. Men are being trained in Iran for this eventuality and they can be activated if the West increases its pressure. Also an aggressive posture towards Europe and North America remains one of the characteristics of the Islamic Revolution. And, although many in Iran would like this to change and more practical policies to prevail, there is nothing yet to suggest that Mr Rafsanjani and his clerical rulers will allow such a change of policy, or that the technologists will be

able to overrule the men of religious principle.

One of the most serious consequences for the Western world is that divisions now arise between Europe and the US. This was shown most vividly in April 1995 when the American company Conoco was awarded a \$600m contract for an Iranian gas project. The US administration stepped in to prevent Conoco from concluding the deal, only to see it picked up by the French company CFP Total.

An American official says: "The Europeans really irritate us over Iran. We make sacrifices in an effort to tackle a problem that threatens the security of us all, only to see our allies making profits out of what we have voluntarily given up. It is all very well for Europe to engage in 'critical dialogue'. We would do the same. We do not want to start a war. But if dialogue fails and terrorism continues, one must be prepared to exert pressure. Europe is not doing this."

The European Union, on the other hand, is conscious of the great export potential of Iran. It sees the Iranian issue as illustrating American foreign policy at its most clumsy, with an administration keen to demonstrate its machismo in the run-up to an election, indulging in frothy press releases and unreliable briefings which it then has to retract, and then proceeds to try to enforce American law outside American territory.

Iran, therefore, is happy to continue its carefully planned scale of terrorism, avoiding Western targets but using violent means in many other parts of the world. From the point of view of the mullahs, this policy has several merits. It is cautious enough to prevent the US from being so angered that they launch an armed response. At the same time, it is bold enough to keep the fervour of Islamic revolution alive, to infuriate the entire Western world and to create divisions between Europe and North America.

## Here Today...



## ...Here Tomorrow



Properly managed, forests will last forever.

**THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS IS PLEDGED TO SEE THAT THEY DO.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION DIAL THE  
FAX BACK NUMBER 0839 393035  
Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times  
OR WRITE TO: 1 RIVENHALL ROAD, WESTLEA, SWINDON, SN5 7BD  
TELEPHONE: 01793 879229 FAX: 01793 886182

Issued by the NEWSPRINT & NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP



## Fact, fantasy, and the colour of teapots

Golden Rules Of Life, part 267.

At one end of knowledge we have scientific laws. At the other end we have proverbs. But in between there are a vast number of rules governing human behaviour that have never been codified. This is part of our ongoing attempt to list them all.

"Never make tea in a brown teapot."

Many old-fashioned teapots are coloured dark brown inside and out, which is the worst possible colour for a teapot. Not only is it very hard to see if the pot is clean inside or not, it is also impossible to see how much tea you have put in, assuming of course that you use tea-leaves. Tea-leaves are brown. Once inside a brown pot they disappear. If you lose count of how many teaspoons you have already put in, it is no use glancing in the pot.

You will see nothing. Nor will you be able to see if you have already put a bit of boiling water inside to warm the pot, and forgotten to pour it

out again. Water is not dark brown but it is transparent, which comes to the same thing.

Suggested solution: either switch to tea-bags or rig up a small bulb inside your brown teapot that can be switched on to illuminate the interior.

Corollary: never use tea-bags in a white teapot decorated internally with small rectangles.

"When you lose your car keys, the first place to look for them is in the car."

When car keys go missing, people rush madly all over the house, looking in pockets and handbags, whereas they are much more likely to find them in the door of the car. This is because we tend to go out to the car and unlock it to load it, or let people gradually get in, and leave the keys in the door till we need them. Then, when everyone is aboard, and the last person has made the last visit to the loo before the journey, you start patting your pockets for the keys forgetting you have left them in the door.

Corollary: if you are looking



Miles Kingston

I myself have left car keys in the car door while parked in big cities for an hour or two and come back to find them (and the car) still miraculously there.

Suggested solution: fix a little shackle to the underneath of your car and leave your keys shackled out of sight to the bottom of your car, where they will always be available and never get lost. When parking in town, always leave your car with its left-hand side to the pavement, so that if you do leave your keys in the driver's door, at least they won't be visible from the pavement.

Corollary: if you are looking

for a car to steal and don't know how to pick locks, just wander the streets looking for a car with keys stuck in the door.

"There is nothing unusual about a personalised car number plate. ALL car number plates are personalised."

Every car number has a meaning for someone, though usually not the owner. If your car has the number 451 SGA, for instance, it may not mean anything to you, but the odds are that someone in some town living at No 451 St George's Avenue would pay good money for a swap. The only problem is in finding them.

Suggested solution: if you wish to have a car number plate exactly the same as your business, it is next to impossible to hunt down the right car. But it is very easy to change the name of your company to the same as your car, and call your company, for instance, 451 SGA.

Corollary: all car number plates are impersonal to everyone except the owner.

"There is no such thing as fantasy football, except on the football pitch."

Fantasy football, the name given to the football version of dreaming up a world cricket XI, is the worst possible name for it, because fantasy is based on a dream of the future, and the way fantasy football is scored is based on what has already happened. A spectator at a live match is fired entirely by thoughts of what may happen between now and the end of the match, by whether his team may equalise or pull ahead, or whatever. But fantasy football is rooted entirely in what actually happens.

Real football is based on a fantasy of what may happen. Newcastle United supporters, for instance, are currently playing football at a very high fantasy level, higher than anything that happens in fantasy football.

Suggested solution: sell Alan Shearer back to Blackburn Rovers.

Corollary: there is no such thing as fantasy smooker.

صكزا من الامثل



# the commentators

## So they say she's not fit to be a mother

Women who are infertile should not bear the brunt of our anxieties about parenthood

Yet another "scandalous" infertility case has hit the headlines. A woman who has had three children taken into care and two abortions, is seeking IVF (test-tube baby) treatment on the NHS. What's more, her consultant and her GP are supporting her request. Good story.

And there are plenty more where that came from. The Mandy Allwood couple may be the most extreme example yet, but infertility clinics can be guaranteed to turn out hot stories by the dozen, tales of "unsuitable" people whom the state has assisted to become parents. With 3,000 IVF babies born a year and numbers rising annually, the tabloid potential is tremendous.

But IVF doctors are becoming increasingly anxious, as one after another gets roughed up by the press. The dozen of them all, Lord Winston, of Hammersmith Hospital, was done over recently for agreeing to give IVF to an HIV-positive woman. (He protested that she might have many good years ahead, and her husband was healthy.) But Lord Winston, like most infertility doctors, has always said he will not decide who will make the best parents: "I refuse to play God." It is easy to understand why - after

all, God himself does the job absurdly badly. The doctors may wriggle out of this particular who-lives-and-who-dies dilemma, though they busily play God in a number of other medical specialisms, deciding who gets kidneys or at what stage "Do Not Resuscitate" notices are added to patients' notes. Rationing has always been a thin veil of life in the NHS, but rarely can it have been done as randomly and unfairly as over IVF. And that is partly because doctors have refused to operate it, leaving it up to the whim of local health authorities. The Department of Health refuses to issue guidelines to ensure that there is at least equal treatment everywhere. This lottery guarantees an outcry whenever an apparently "undeserving" woman gets treatment.

This latest case is happening at King's College Hospital, London. Like the other main centres, they offer IVF to any patients from health authorities with whom they have contracts, and each sets its own criteria for treatment. That means patients are treated according to postcode - one of the most unjust aspects of the current NHS.

This patient lives in the catchment area of Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark



POLLY TOYNEE

Health Authority, one of the more flexible purchasers. According to the Chief Executive, their contract with King's stipulates that IVF should be available to women who have no surviving children of the current relationship (but could have from previous relationships), and it does not stipulate that they must be married. But if, say, the woman had been sent by East Riding Health Authority, she would have had to be married for at least three years, with no children, not even from a previous relationship, or adopted.

At King's College all patients are required to fill out a long form, which is also sent to their GPs. If there are doubts, a social worker can be called in to investigate

and difficult cases go to a hospital ethics committee. When the prospective parents have passed the basic criteria, each according to their health authority, they are placed on a list strictly in order of first come first served. "That can be harrowing for us," says Dr Virginia Bolton. "We all have our own idea of which ones we think are the most deserving. But in the end, there is no other way to choose."

In this case the social worker found that the woman had had a disastrous start in life: when she was 23 her three children were taken into care after her husband and father sexually assaulted them. But for the last 10 years she has lived in a stable relationship. Is she never to escape her calamitous past?

There is an inchoate rumble of anxiety about fertility treatment, with a deep moral confusion at the heart of it. Are people indignant that children are being born of less than perfect parents? Or is it about the spending of NHS money? If unsatisfactory parents can buy IVF in private clinics (most of it is privately paid for) is that OK? Who is to decide whether a couple will make good parents? Forty per cent of the married will divorce. Some unhappy couples

mistakenly want a child to "save" a bad marriage. All of us can point to apparently "good" parents with catastrophic children, and vice versa. So doctors are right to be wary of acting as moral parent police.

If MPs really did want more regulation, where would they start? Some 16,000 couples undergo treatment every year. Could they all be vetted with the sort of thoroughness expected in adoption? Then there are the hundreds of thousands of couples who have some kind of infertility treatment. Would they, too, have to be vetted before they were treated? Drugs to increase ovulation, for instance, are often given by GPs. One in six couples seeks medical advice at some point for infertility. Should the state judge the suitability of all these women, with some monstrous Ministry of Motherhood?

If not, then why pick on the most infertile as the only humans to be subjected to examination in fitness for parenthood? Anne Weyman, head of the Family Planning Association, says everyone needs to be taught parenting. But she asks, why vent all society's anxieties about inadequate parents on those who happen to need doctors to assist in conception?

## How to handle a woman: for sales reps

Ann Treneman on the marketing obsession with marital status

There is one question obsessing the world of tele-marketing and that is whether or not I am married. I know this because people from all over Britain keep ringing up and asking. First they soften me up by mentioning wonderful deals on double glazing, garage doors, a new kitchen, a time-share. Then they pose the question: "And are you married?"

Other women tell the same story. They've just got to the point in the sales pitch where they are wondering if there really could be such a thing as a free lunch, when they are asked about their marital status. The correct answer, of course, is none of your business - and tele-marketing people should take that statement literally. This, as they say in America, is a No Sale Situation.

"There really is nothing sexist about it all," says Ralph Greiner, business development manager for Henderson garage doors. "Ladies seem to think it is sexist but it's for security reasons and also because we want to see both people together." Mr Greiner says the ideal version of this question is "When is a good time to catch you together?" Faranoid types will see through that immediately, however.

Statistics show that one in three visits to couples ends in a successful sale while in a "single" visit, to use the jargon, the figure is one in 10. Many "single" visits will think it's a miracle that there is even one sale. Sandra Birch Jones, who runs Professional Telesales in Sevenoaks, tells this tale of trying to buy a kitchen. "The company asked when my husband would be there and said they would not come round if he was not. They have this outmoded belief that men hold the purse-strings," she says. Her salespeople do not ask that question. Needless to say, she bought her kitchen elsewhere.

Joy Tinkler, one of Everest's top sales reps, says the key is to find the decision-maker. "It's something you just get a feel for," she says. "A lot of reps won't present to a woman on her own. I have no qualms about selling to a lady on her own if I realise she is the decision maker."

She tells the story about buying a car. A friend, male, went with her. The car salesman made a beeline for the chap, showing him everything in the showroom. After 45 minutes the salesman realised his mistake and rushed up to her. "I told him the car I wanted and that I wanted £1,000 off the price. He said he could only do £500. I said £1,000 or no deal and that I also wanted a bunch of flowers for his rudeness. And I got it, too."

So the next time a stranger pops the "married" question, think of Joy Tinkler. She says the proper question, for security reasons, is: "Would you like to have somebody with you during the visit?" That's how to sell to a woman - or a man.

## Whose democracy is it anyway?

The Royal Family has formed a committee to decide its own future, but decisions like this are too important to be left to self-interested parties, argues Anthony Barnett

So now we know. A committee of key Royals and their sophisticated advisers meet every six months to assess the way ahead. How is the monarchy doing? Have any changes taken place that deserve a response from the Royal Family? The political philosophy behind such meetings draws on the experience of relatives who were insufficiently flexible, including their own ancestors 350 years ago. The art of staying royal is to make it appear that you are not against all change.

This might even necessitate accepting some actual change. Paying the bottom rate of tax, for example, while leaving open the option of escape from such impositions by making them voluntary. Lord Blake summed up the attitude marvellously on the radio yesterday. Of course it is good that people should "talk" about reforms, he emphasised. But, he added, the changes now being talked about, such as for the heir to be allowed to marry a Catholic or equal opportunity for women to accede to the throne, are quite unnecessary.

When Lord Blake tells us he is in favour of talk, one has a vision of another hundred years of velvet tones pouring from the mouths of constitutional experts. Yet this seems more like a crude filibuster masquerading as generosity of wisdom. Perhaps it is motivated by a conservatism deeper than the desire to see the Royals stay as they are; the conservatism that wants to ensure that the Royals and their experts alone decide if and when there is to be reform. Public opinion will be assessed, to help ensure con-

sistent, but private opinion, in the form of the Royal circle, will decide.

This confirms what may have been obvious to all those "in the know" - that we in Britain are actively ruled. The Royals are not a family passively accepting their fate. They constantly survey their role and seek to preserve their influence. Yet the official confirmation of the committee's existence gives a new edge to questions about the legitimacy of this approach. But it like this. To whom does the Royal Family belong? In the past such a query would have been pointless. There was a ruling order, the City, the Church (there was no need to say of what), the landed aristocracy, the military, the Empire, the civil servants, the London clubs (including the Commons). The ruled. Everyone knew it. Most people liked it. Consent took the form of deference and enchantment personified by the monarch. It didn't matter if personally he was a stuttering stamp collector. The system was brilliant. The monarch belonged to it. And shone accordingly.

Today, the imperial system that made and possessed the monarchy (and demonstrated its control in the abdication crisis) has dissolved. To save themselves the Royals became a television family seeking to use the extraordinary appeal of the media as a substitute for the loss of their true surroundings. Now they have discovered that if they continue to live by the media they will die by it. They want their privacy. But we are told, they represent who we are. Even, according to William Waldegrave, "a vision of what we should be."

As the empire has shrunk away, the monarchy has been inflated. So that it has now become a substitute for the constitutional order. This is an untenable travesty of tradition, one increasingly incompatible with modern democracy. And it is exploited worst of all by the Government.

The personal tension is best illustrated by the proposal that the heir to the throne should be allowed to marry a Catholic. Were Charles just a member of a family, if royalty belonged to themselves, then whom they married would be a private affair. But the hereditary head of the Church of England cannot be free to marry a Catholic. Personal, private freedom for Royals means disestablishment, both literally, as far as the Church is concerned, and more widely. If, however, the Royals sitting as a committee decide to de-couple Church and Crown, this too would be an outrage. For it should not be a closed, family decision. It may be the right one, but it has to be a shared one.

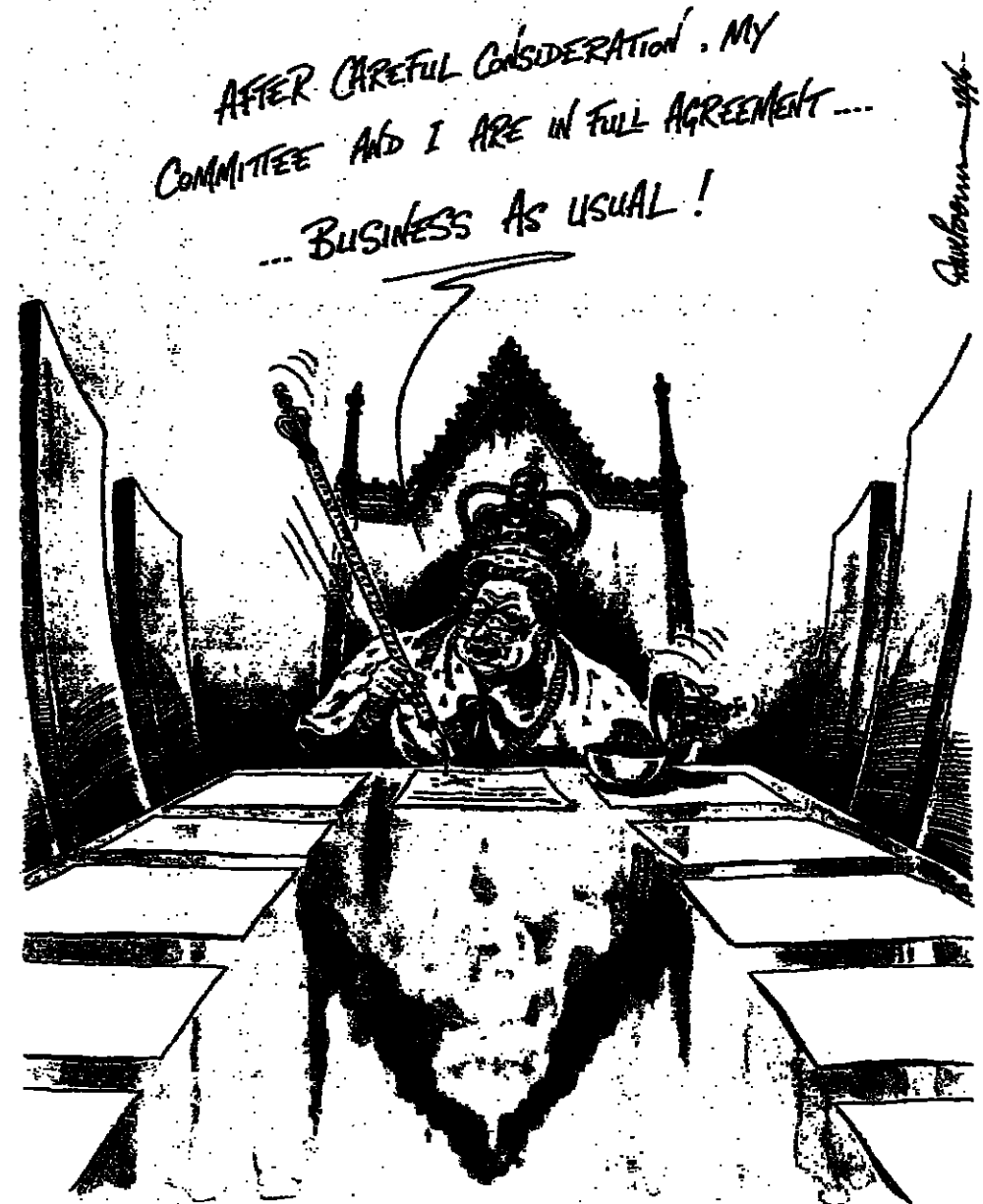
But how can it be shared when Parliament is not even allowed to debate the monarchy, supposedly on the grounds that it is the Queen's own court? This is the real issue of sovereignty: not this or that reform of the rules defining the Royal Family, but how we decide how the rules are changed. It matters for Ministers, as they exploit prerogative powers, now that the informed constraints of consensus politics have been broken. A Tory leak seems to have inspired Saturday's *Daily Express* story, sensationally headlined: "The Queen's secret inquiry into 'Labour'." This revealed that her private

secretary, Sir Robert Fellowes, is conducting discreet interviews to consider the effect on the monarchy of Lords reform, while its editorial proclaimed: "The British constitution is a... delicate edifice... tamper with several parts of it... as Labour intends... and you may unwittingly unravel the whole thing."

Her Majesty is being enlisted to preserve us from decentralisation, a modest Scottish parliament and a Freedom of Information Act. If the monarchy collaborates with this approach, however surreptitiously, it could indeed help John Major win in 1997.

But such a short-term reprieve is likely to precipitate a constitutional endgame from which it is inconceivable that the Crown will emerge unscathed. Ironically, it is in the monarchy's interests also that we move away from Lord Blake's talk. Sir Robert's discreet soundings and Tory scaremongering. As well as ours. For until the monarchy can be properly debated it will be hard to describe ourselves as a democracy.

The writer is the editor of *Power and the Throne* (Vintage, 1995).



THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

He made quite a spectacle, the outsider with the strange, short clothes, tagging along in the high African grass, repeating his exasperated questions to the men hurrying to their midday chicken oracle. It was wrong to think that they were primitive or foolish, of course - all those commemorative rituals at his public school for the massed slaughter of the recent First World War had shown up that presumption - but what they had told him of their society was certainly not making his task any easier.

It seemed a world expressly designed by lunatics. Everyone believed there were witches around, and that to find out if someone else was bewitching you, you needed to feed poison to a chicken while going through the name of possible suspects, and when the chicken fell over dead, you knew who it was.

Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard pushed along to catch up with these men he'd come to like, and helped them set out the nervously flapping fowls in the growing heat. It still seemed impossible, though, for poisoned chickens can't talk. He thought about it at length back in the house he'd built in the village. What if the whole thing was just a way of channelling a small community's tensions? It

wouldn't matter which name the chicken fell over at. You'd be happy - and tension in the village would be reduced - if anyone that list apologised to you.

Everything that had seemed odd about these people clicked into place. The village was a steam engine, and these rituals were an elaborate network of feedback devices. Buying the chicken and the poison was expensive, expressly so, because that kept the release valves from being weakened through over-use. All the chicken's pronouncements had to be cleared through the local prince, which meant the ritual could never go too far, and threaten the village's good order. It was a great, self-correcting equilibrium system, hidden in the social rules.

Evans-Pritchard had the discovery of his career, and anthropologists' hunts for subtle pathways took off afresh. If a tribe holds that the blood from a murdered person pollutes local rivers, he pointed out subsequently, you shouldn't just examine it in terms of their religious beliefs. Look at how it restricts local murder rates, too. If Indians won't eat wandering cows, yet another researcher said, then think of the cows as mobile petrochemical factories, supplying useful cooking fuel and fertiliser.



WEEK 3 DAY 2

Anthropology

VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis

A final examination will be set at the end of term. All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to *The Independent*.



Not everything evolved so neatly, but in moderation you got a powerful new imaging scope, which it was increasingly tempting to turn back on to the society left behind. In one possible view, Parliament is opened when an elderly human wearing dead animal furs and with a pile of stones balanced on her head publicly waggles her vocal cords. In another, though, Elizabeth Windsor is a crucial force for stability, allowing even individuals who disagree with an elected government to stay united. Along with the time-stiffened boxes of the class system, her country will avoid the terrified social uncertainties that lead to witchcraft charges, as in early 1950s America, or its PC-churning campuses today.

Claude Lévi-Strauss hunted potential harmonies in a different fashion, starting from the way villages avoid dividing into separate factions - often by simply having strict rules against marrying within a faction. Terrified young brides or grooms end up being flung into distant groups, which may not be the greatest of pleasures for the new couples, but has the effect of neatly stitching the entire mass of factions together - at least till their children grow up, isolated in the new factions, and the elaborate stitching needs to be re-

peated. The rules and stories that summarise this process have a recurrent form: showing what needs to be joined, even if everyone knows that it will ultimately break apart.

This line of reasoning can lead you to suspect that there will be similar, equally potent rule machines around us. Young men step into the magical box called a squash court, and just by thwacking a little ball around, two utterly separate ideals they've been taught - the need to compete, but also the need to accept shared rules - are joined together. A few hours of ordinary life will rip that sewing apart - just as the tribal marriage circuit decays - but that just means the therapy will need to be regularly repeated. Readers of popular romances are equally known for their need to buy fresh recharges for their Mills and Boon love machines.

The weavings in myths, sports and marriage are remarkably similar, and remarkably powerful. Since words and rules can survive long after the world they came from has vanished, they can be used as a coded time-machine, stretching back, stopping along the way, perhaps, at the beliefs of one young Englishman, in the 1920s, convinced that there might be wisdom to garner in distant lands.

Tomorrow: Language

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

12.9% APR

How to save £532.32 on a loan.

You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any reason\* with Hamilton Direct Bank, and take advantage of our fixed rates.

TYPICAL EXAMPLE	A LOAN OF £5,000	What you pay with Hamilton Direct Bank
	APR	4% example repayment
Hamilton Direct Bank	12.9%	£132.36
Barclays Bank PLC*	12.9%	£143.45
Mutual of Somerset Financial Services Ltd*	15.9%	£158.74
		£532.32

\*The rates quoted are for new customers. Existing customers may be eligible for a different rate. Rates are correct as at 1st July 1996.

NEW REDUCED RATES

12.9% APR on Loans from £5,000 to £10,000.

14.9% APR on Loans from £10,000 to £25,000.

HAMILTON Direct Bank

A division of RAC Bank plc

We have the money to hand.

IF YOU ARE OVER 18 AND HAVE A REGULAR INCOME, APPLY NOW ON

FREEPHONE 0800 30 3000

QUOTING REF 930647231

\*Typical example: If you borrow £5,000 over 60 months at 12.9% APR, the monthly repayment is £107.36 and the total amount payable is £6,441.60.

\*The example is based on a £5,000 loan over 60 months at 12.9% APR. The actual amount payable will vary depending on the amount borrowed, the term of the loan and the rate of interest. The example is based on a £5,000 loan over 60 months at 12.9% APR. The actual amount payable will vary depending on the amount borrowed, the term of the loan and the rate of interest.







# Dismal decline in year of export-led recovery



It is easy to see why Japan's share of world export markets in manufactured goods should have fallen last year. 1995 was the year when the yen climbed into the stratosphere; even the most supercharged of industrial mountaineers would have found it hard to survive for long in the rarified atmosphere occupied by the yen at that time. It is equally easy to see why France, still clinging to its ill conceived *franc* policy, should also be suffering. Harder to explain is how Germany managed to increase its share and in the process regain its position as second largest exporter; the German mark was also a strong currency in 1995.

But hardest to explain of all – except in anything but the most disturbing terms – is why Britain should have seen its relative share of world trade in continued decline. This, you will recall, was meant to be the year when the currency advantage obtained by leaving the ERM should have been making British exporters significantly more competitive in world markets. And it was the year in which British manufacturing was meant to be rediscovering its pride, showing the rest of Europe the way in terms of productivity and innovation.

If figures from the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry are to be believed, the good news story being put about by ministers and industrialists is a long way from the truth. Indeed it seems to be little more than wishful thinking. No com-

parable analysis of world export performance is produced in Britain (now why do you think that is?) and the integrity and accuracy of the German survey is obviously open to question.

All the same, the picture it paints is probably about right. There is no reason to believe the figures have been distorted. Britain's biggest failing, judging by the breakdown, has been in the high growth economies of Asia. Again there is no obvious explanation for this, for Britain's historic and cultural links with Asia should have given its exporters a natural advantage.

Furthermore, Britain's dismal showing in these markets (our share over the last 10 years has fallen from 3.3 per cent to 2.2 per cent) rather gives the lie to those Eurosceptics who naively and vainly believe Britain could make its way outside Europe by strengthening trading links with the Far East and the Americas.

We are already doing badly in the Far East even with the bridgehead into Europe our islands offer by way of return. Cast adrift from Europe, there is every reason to believe our performance would be even worse.

The German figures fail to take account of Britain's still impressive performance in financial and business services – invisibles. Here our showing is still a respectable one. But as exporters of things that ordinary people can understand, we are on the road to oblivion. If we cannot hold our own even in

the world's strongest growth markets, where on earth are we going to succeed? Mars? Time for some serious soul searching.

## Small comfort at Chamberlain Phipps

All those new found concerns over AIM, AOFex and other matched bargain markets in high risk companies that nobody has ever heard of, has made us forget that the real money is still lost on the main exchange with all its safeguards, listing requirements and high voltage investor protection rules. It is hard to imagine a more scandalous example of this than Chamberlain Phipps, for this was a company floated on the stock market just two years ago. To call in receivers just a year after the company reported record results and awarded its chairman a controversial performance bonus that doubled his salary, makes it seem doubly worse.

The biggest questions must be asked of the company's advisers, HSBC Samuel Montagu and Credit Lyonnais Laing, for it was their stamp of approval that allowed the company to be floated.

The latter, as house broker, recommended buying the shares at 16.3p only a year ago. They were suspended yesterday at 11p but with debts of £34m hanging around the shoe makers neck, they are worthless. Rarely has cobblers been a more appropriate description of a company. It will come as cold com-

fort to shareholders but the warning signs were flashing bright red at Chamberlain right from the word go. Shareholders who allowed the company to thumb its nose at a string of corporate governance guidelines have only themselves to blame for the loss of their investment.

Why, they might have asked themselves at the time, was Dan Sullivan, an American venture capitalist with a far from flawless record, allowed to combine the roles of chairman and chief executive, leaving unchecked the ambitious expansion plans that ultimately left the company drowning in debt? Worse, why was he allowed to sit at the head of a remuneration committee that concocted the bonus scheme from hell and had it waved through by unquestioning investors. The one comfort shareholders can glean from this sorry episode is that Mr Sullivan did at least put his money where his mouth was. His 25 per cent stake, now a quarter of nothing at all, was worth the best part of £20m a year ago.

## Calling time on the electricity companies

Electricity is slippery stuff. You cannot warehouse it and you cannot forecast its price more than 24 hours in advance. Now it appears that you may not be able to buy it from a supplier of your choice quite as soon as promised either. The 12 regional electric-

ity companies are wizards when it comes to staring into their crystal balls and devising long term share option and incentive schemes guaranteed to deliver riches beyond most people's wildest dreams. It appears, however, that eight years is not long enough for them to prepare for the opening up of the domestic market to full competition. This is due to happen on 1 April 1998. But the Rees are now asking for another 18 months while competition is phased in.

When the financial markets were liberalised a decade ago, it was called Big Bang. Rees call their own forthcoming shakeup "the Cliff Face", a term which refers to the climb from easy monopoly one day to competitors in a fully liberalised market the next. Now they seem to have got vertigo before they have even begun the ascent. Granted the scale of the change is daunting. Writing a computer program that will allow 25 million domestic customers to shop around for a commodity whose price changes every half hour of the day is hardly a breeze.

But the regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild rightly comes back to the fact that the industry has known about the impending change since 1990. If the Rees need time to phase in competition, it should end, not start, in April 1998. The new public electricity supply licences Prof Littlechild has framed in readiness for that day give him the power to penalise those Rees which delay. He should use it, even if it means pushing one or two over the cliff edge.

# Britain's share of world trade falls to all-time low

ELISABETH KLEIN

Britain's share of world trade in manufactured goods has been falling steadily for ten years reaching an all time low of just 4.7 per cent last year, according to a survey from the influential Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

By contrast, in 1985 Britain's share was 5.6 per cent. The survey shows that Britain broadly maintained its position in the European and North American markets, with 7.3 per cent and 3.4 per cent, respectively.

But our share of export markets in Asia has plummeted, from 3.3 per cent ten years ago to only 2.2 per cent last year.

The UK is among the few western countries whose export shares in the Asian market have become weaker than in the mid 80s.

"While countries like Italy, France or Germany increased their shares in Asia, the British failed. The feeble performance of British companies in Asia is the main reason for the loss of market share in world trade," said Guenter Lambertz, the

German economist who conducted the survey. "This is a dangerous situation, for Britain because Asia is and will be the fastest growing market of the world."

The world's leading export country is still the USA with an increased share of world trade of 16.4 per cent in 1995, compared to 16.1 per cent the year before.

With 10.8 per cent of world markets, Germany regained second place, narrowly pushing Japan out of the number two position. Japan's share was down 0.1 per cent to 10.5 per cent.

The strong showing by the US is attributed to a better performance in other North American markets.

Mr. Lambertz said that the US share of trade within North America had increased since the North American Free Trade Agreement – which brought down tariff barriers between Canada, the US and Mexico – came into force in 1995. This in turn was reflected in the figures showing an increased US share of world trade.

Whereas a strong Yen, rela-

tive to the US-Dollar, caused a fall in Japan's share of world markets, the high priced German mark seems to have had little effect in German export performance.

"German companies were able to pass higher prices on to their customers and as a result they increased their market share by value."

But we expect that on a medium-term perspective foreign clients will reduce their orders," Mr. Lambertz said.

The Association explains that the increased export share of Germany in Asia, up to 4.8 per cent from 4.3 per cent in 1985, is the main reason for its strong performance worldwide. There was also strong demand for capital goods, where German companies are the leading suppliers.

Typically, Germany appears far from happy with its performance.

Mr. Lambertz said: "Our success in export markets shouldn't be overestimated. German companies can only be competitive if they keep on rationalizing and increase the amount of imported cheaper semi-finished products."

Global export league: percentage shares of world trade						
	1986	1989	1992	1993	1994	1995
United States	14.3	14.9	14.2	15.8	16.1	16.4
World	6.8	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.5	7.2
Europe	68.6	65.3	65.2	67.0	67.6	75.0
North America	34.9	38.4	41.5	45.2	43.4	42.9
Latin America	19.4	19.6	17.7	17.6	16.9	16.9
Asia	12.9	12.6	12.6	11.1	10.6	10.8
Germany	20.9	21.0	20.8	19.6	19.1	19.8
World	6.0	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.4
Europe	19.7	17.2	16.2	16.2	15.6	14.1
North America	6.2	6.1	6.8	6.3	6.7	5.8
Latin America	7.3	7.1	6.3	5.4	5.5	5.4
Asia	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.8
Japan	10.9	10.2	10.0	10.4	10.6	10.5
World	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.2
Europe	19.7	17.2	16.2	16.2	15.6	14.1
North America	6.2	6.1	6.8	6.3	6.7	5.8
Latin America	7.3	7.1	6.3	5.4	5.5	5.4
Asia	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.8
France	6.1	6.2	6.5	5.9	5.6	5.4
World	9.7	10.2	10.6	10.2	10.2	9.9
Europe	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1
North America	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.4
Latin America	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.0
Asia	5.6	5.2	5.3	5.0	4.9	4.7
United Kingdom	7.2	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.3
World	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4
Europe	2.5	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
North America	3.3	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2
Latin America	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asia	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	-	-	3.7	4.4	4.6	4.6
World	-	-	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.6
Europe	-	-	4.2	4.8	5.1	5.4
North America	-	-	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.5
Latin America	-	-	10.3	10.8	11.4	11.0
Asia	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.2
World	7.2	7.5	7.6	6.9	7.0	7.0
Europe	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1
North America	2.1	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.2
Latin America	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
Asia	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry

# Strong debut for EMI after Thorn split

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

EMI Group, the music arm of the former Thorn-EMI conglomerate, remained a favoured takeover candidate, following its maiden day of trading as a separately quoted company.

Its shares jumped 37.5p to £14.60, while its former stablemate, rentals group Thorn, saw its shares slump 17p to 391p, despite some buying late in the day. The company said prices had been broadly in line with expectations.

Analysts pointed out that EMI, which is the only top five music company not owned by a multimedia giant, was still attracting interest as a potential bid candidate. The rest of the top five – Warner, Sony, Polygram, Bertelsmann – are all either owned by hardware manufacturers or integrated media companies, a fate many analysts are convinced awaits EMI Group.

Said one analyst: "We calculate a 25 per cent bid premium in the shares, based on our fundamental valuation."

The music business has been performing well in both the US and Europe, and margins have been improving. But there are concerns that many large music

companies are spending freely to develop new talent that may not add much value to the library in the future. Still, EMI is respected for its list of recording stars, ranging from the Beatles to Frank Sinatra, and analysts believe its profit margins will continue to improve in 1996 and 1997.

Thorn, by contrast, is viewed as stodgy and uninspiring. Its chain of rental shops, including Crazy George's and Radio Rentals, is a market leader in the UK, and has expanded into new fields such as computers and modems. But its growth has never been able to match the performance of EMI.

Despite the drop in Thorn's price yesterday, the two formerly wedded companies managed to trade at a 18p premium to Friday's closing price of 183p, and analysts suggested a bidder might have to offer as much as £19 a share, or more than £8bn, for the EMI Group alone.

The list of potential bidders remained long yesterday, with Seagram, the Canadian company that owns the Hollywood music and film giant MCA, still the favourite. Other potential buyers are News Corporation, the TV and newspaper group, and Sony, the second-biggest music company after Warner.

## IN BRIEF

• Japanese household spending in June rose 3.4 per cent year on year after falling 1.4 per cent in May, the Economic Planning Agency said. In the second quarter to June, it improved by 0.3 per cent year on year after rising 2.5 per cent in the first quarter. And in the six months to June, spending increased 1.5 per cent year on year after declining 1.1 per cent in the six months to December.

• Düsseldorf prosecutors have offered again to drop their investigation of former Mannesmann chairman Werner Dietrich if he pays a fine of DM100m (£43.5m), a prosecutors' spokesman said. Mr Dietrich has until the end of August to respond in the case, which involves Mannesmann's awarding of contracts to a firm controlled by his family. Separately, Mannesmann reported higher-than-expected profits for the six months to June, led by a near doubling of profit in the telecommunications sector and a sharply increased profit in its car technology operations. Group pre-tax profits before extraordinary rose 22 per cent to Dm358m.

• Michael Page, the executive recruitment consultancy, made a record £14m taxable profit in the first half of the year, the result compared with £7.9m in the same period last year. Investment column, page 18

• Bass, the brewing company on the verge of buying Carlsberg Tønder, has appointed Sir Michael Perry to succeed Kenneth Dixon, who retires on Tuesday, as deputy chairman. Sir Michael, who is also chairman of Unilever, has been a non-executive director of Bass since 1991.

• The Association of British Insurers said premiums invested in new life insurance business totalled £2.9bn in the second quarter, an increase of 36 per cent on the same period in 1995. Premiums invested in new individual pension plans jumped 35 per cent to £1.7bn. "Confidence in long-term saving looks to be gathering pace," said Mark Boleat, ABI's Director General.

• Wace Group, the printing and packaging company, reported a disappointing drop in interim pre-tax profits from £10m to £4.2m, blaming restructuring and one-off costs. Investment column, page 18

• Medeva, the drugs group, has been granted a licence for its salbutamol metered dose inhaler by the US Food and Drug Administration. The inhaler, for the treatment of asthma, will be made by its US subsidiary, Armstrong Pharmaceuticals. The product is expected to be on the market during the third quarter.

• Toys "R" Us said its second-quarter earnings jumped a better-than-expected 72 per cent, as the retailer's effort to simplify its stores and focus on best-selling toys paid off. The world's largest toy retailer said net income rose to \$27.1m, equal to 10 cents a share and beating the average estimate by analysts of 8 cents. The share and beating the average estimate by analysts of 8 cents. The company plans to open about 30 toy stores and about eight Kids company plans to open about 30 toy stores and about eight Kids "R" Us stores in the US this year. Internationally, it will add about 60 stores, including 25 franchise stores. The company now operates 651 toy stores in the US, 359 international toy stores, 211 Kids "R" Us children's clothing stores and three Babies "R" Us stores. Bloomberg

• Eastern Natural Gas will soon install gas mains and services to connect a new housing estate in South Wales to the natural gas pipe network, marking the first laying of pipes by the UK's largest independent gas supplier.

# Argos unveils £500m war chest

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Argos, the catalogue retailer, yesterday revealed a war chest of up to £500m to spend on acquisitions, but said it was no longer looking at Signet, the jewellery group which owns the H Samuel and Ernest Jones chains.

Mike Smith, chief executive, said: "We have looked at [Signet] because it's a business which fits into our competences. We are looking at businesses

where we are already significant and have knowledge of the supply base and the management."

Mr Smith said the four areas of their acquisition search were toys, consumer electronics, housewares and jewellery. "We have looked at them, evaluated them and made approaches where we were able to do so, but either prices did not match what we were prepared to pay or the businesses weren't for sale. It could be a long courtship."

Argos stressed that many of the companies it has looked at were well under the overall limit of its spending power, which would take gearing to around 100 per cent, and emphasised it was not talking to anyone at present.

The comments came as Argos revealed a cash mountain of £103m in June, despite the £127m special dividend, worth 42p a share, paid to shareholders in May. Pre-tax profits

soured 45 per cent to £31.8m in 24 weeks to 15 June, spurred by sales up 18 per cent at £561m. The shares responded with a rise of 14p to 757p.

Like-for-like sales growth has accelerated through the half year, starting at 8 per cent in the first 10 weeks, rising to over 9 per cent at the annual general meeting in May and finished averaging just over 11 per cent across the six months.

Tony Shire, analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, suggested this meant sales growth above that rate by the end of the period, which augured well for the second half, when the Budget should also be favourable for the group. "There is a very big Christmas orientation to the business and it looks like the Conservatives want to razz people up for Christmas." He has raised his full-year profits forecast by £13m to £150m on the back of yesterday's news.

Argos reiterated plans to raise the number of traditional stores to between 500 and 600. On top of that, it estimates there is potential for a chain of 200 "call and collect" outlets, the smaller order-based store aimed at catchment areas with populations of under 35,000. Although the idea is still being evaluated, 10 stores should be open by December.

First Stop, an "ultra discount" format which started trials last year, has opened its second store in Bedford and a third is planned later this year. Meanwhile, Argos Direct, representing the group's involvement in bigger items, such as furniture, sheds and garages, saw sales jump 41 per cent to £40.4m in the period.

The group's first move overseas, to Ireland, has gone well, with the first four outlets in the republic exceeding expectations. A further eight are planned, while investigations suggest Argos could establish 70 stores in Holland.

Investment column, page 18



Stepping up: Argos sales are showing steady acceleration

Photograph: Edward Webb

CHRONOMAT

AVAILABLE FROM SELECTED JEWELLERS  
THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.  
FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST  
TELEPHONE 0171 637 5167.

BREITLING SA, PO. Box 1132,  
SWITZERLAND • 2540 GRENCHEN  
TEL: 41 65 / 51 11 31, Fax: 41 65 / 53 10 09

INSTRUMENTS  
FOR PROFESSIONALS



## business

## Argos prospers without the glitz

Argos is a group which appears to defy normal retailing logic. Eschewing the prime locations and glitzy presentation which others regard as essential to success on the high street, the catalogue showroom operation has prospered in the austerity of the 1990s.

Argos would claim that its recent success has less to do with the current retail environment and more with its own efforts. Yesterday's 45 per cent rise in interim profits to £31.8m was fuelled by like-for-like growth through the stores of 11 per cent. That is only just over half the growth rate typically returned by the group in the heady days of the 1980s and Mike Smith, chief executive, would say only around 2 per cent of the latest figure relates to revived consumer confidence.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the group's deceptively simple plan to set the pricing agenda on the high street, while expanding its range, has struck a chord with consumers. The group has held or cut the price of around 70 per cent of its lines and yet still managed a modest 0.4 per cent gross margin gain in the first half. Argos freely admits that much of this is down to one-off factors such as abnormally low stock levels last winter and exchange benefits. In a more normal year, it would expect to see margin erosion of nearer 0.1 per cent, but through mix gains and direct buying from overseas, hopes it should be no worse than that on average.

But management of austerity extends beyond gross margins at Argos. High operational gearing and iron control of costs helped translate the 18 per cent rise in first-half sales into a 64 per cent rise in operating profits, which came in at £25.5m.

With typical caution, the group yesterday offered a series of reasons why the all-important second half might be tricky, including bearing an extra £6m for catalogue costs due to higher paper prices and increased competition from rivals. Even so, analysts were busy upping forecasts yesterday on the promising sales figures, with Barclays de Zoete Wedd now looking for £150m.

With scope to raise the number of domestic stores by up to 50 per cent from the 404 expected to be in place by the year end, there is still plenty to go for in the core business. The only worry is what happens with diversifications. It is early days, but this year's first move overseas, to Ireland, seems to have gone well. The move to the Netherlands, where Argos sees the potential for 70 stores, will involve more risk.

A departure into mainstream retailing would be more serious. The acquisition of Signet, the jewellery chain, seems to be off the agenda, but with

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

firepower of up to £500m, Argos has the scope for a large mistake.

With that in mind, the shares, up 14p at 757p, look high enough on a forward p/c of 22.

## Page recruits profits overseas

Recruitment consultancy is if anything more operationally geared than the catalogue retailing Argos specialises in. With a largely fixed overhead base, even quite modest rises in the numbers of successful placements can have a dramatic impact on profits. No surprise then that an unexpected 45 per cent rise in permanent jobs and 25 per cent increase in temps at Michael Page in the half year led to soaring profits and a big jump in the share price yesterday.

Interim profits emerged from those benevolent trading conditions 79 per cent higher at £14m. Earnings per share were 74 per cent better at 14.28p and the dividend was all but doubled at 2p (1.1p). Encouragingly, the cash pile at

the end of the half year was a better-than-expected £29.9m and analysts believe it will be closer to £37m by December.

Analysts had pencilled in profits closer to £11m for the six months so it was again no surprise that the share price should jump 28p to 345p yesterday. At that level, they have already risen more than 10 fold since the 33p low point reached at the end of 1993. Highlights of the period were buoyant City recruitment with significantly better permanent and contract business pushing profits 70 per cent higher. Accountancy was strong, but the real success story has been Page's push overseas where France and the Netherlands are booming and Australia achieved record profits, up 86 per cent.

The successful creation of a genuinely international portfolio of businesses is important because it will provide Page with some protection when the chill winds of recession start blowing again. The disadvantage of being geared to an upturn is that you tend to be equally geared to a decline in business.

On the basis of house broker BZW's forecasts for this year and next of £28m

profits rising to £32m, the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 12, falling to 10. Even if you adopt the prudent approach of attaching a discount to the shares to cover the inevitable cyclical dip in earnings, the cushion of the cash in the bank and the geographical spread mean the shares still have a little way to go. But only a little - most of the good news is now in price.

## Wace presents a triple whammy

There appears to be a jinx on Wace, the printing and packaging group. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Wace was dogged by problems culminating in a series of profit warnings. Recent events suggest history is about to repeat itself. Since March, when they hit a high of 279p, the shares have been falling steadily on the back of a warnings over margins and then in May over profits. The triple whammy was delivered yesterday by news that pre-tax profits have crashed from £10m to £4.21m in the six months to June. Earnings per share have slumped from 7.3p to 1.4p, not quite enough to cover an unchanged interim dividend of 1.85p. The shares accordingly slid 15p to 152p.

The merger of Wace's existing wine and spirit labelling operations with those of Ferry Pickering, a maker of specialist packaging acquired for £26m last year, was always going to be expensive, but the market was wrong-footed by the £3.2m exceptional unveiled yesterday, which comes on top of a £800,000 loss on the closure of a US plant.

More serious was the performance of the UK businesses. Excluding acquisitions, printing profits slid from £6.2m to £3.5m in the half, hit by the destocking flagged by the company earlier in the year and hefty competition, exacerbated by desperate rivals on the brink of collapse. Meanwhile, imaging, the process of transforming images and words into a form in which they can be printed, crashed from £2.2m to just £800,000 as a large customer slashed his business with Wace.

The figures would have been worse, but for £800,000 profits from Ferry Pickering and Hallmark's Irish greeting card plant, also acquired last year.

Chief executive Trevor Gries has been feted by the City for turning the group round, but with profits unlikely to top £17m this year, his stock has (literally) taken a tumble. A forward multiple of 14 and gearing of 67 per cent suggest investors should exercise caution.

## ARGOS: AT A GLANCE

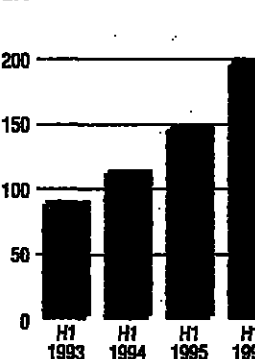
Market value: £2.16bn, share price 757p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996
Turnover (£bn)	1.11	1.26	1.44	0.47	0.56
Pre-tax profits (£m)	83.5	100	124	21.8	31.8
Earnings per share (pence)	18.6	22.3	27.5	4.82	7.06
Dividends per share (pence)	8.0	10.5	13.0*	4.0	5.3

\*plus 42p special dividend

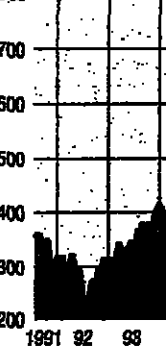
## Average net cash

£m



## Share price

pence



## Ten funds consider bidding for embattled Kepit trust

NIC CICUTTI

Ten fund management companies yesterday met the deadline to express an interest in Kepit, the embattled £500m Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust, whose poor performance has sparked takeover bids from many of its rivals.

Among those expressing an interest is Kleinwort Benson itself, together with a bid from TR European Growth Trust, which involves liquidating the

ailing Kepit trust and returning the remaining funds to its 66,000 shareholders.

Other proposals put forward to Kepit directors include Morgan Grenfell Trust Managers, the bank's investment trust arm. It is understood that a decision on the preferred option will be made within the next two weeks.

Ben Siddons, director at Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, which is bidding to retain control of Kepit, said: "Our proposals are framed in

such a way to provide for the best cash exit for those Kepit shareholders who want to pull out.

"But we believe that the outlook for European privatisations themselves is much improved now. Nor have things been as bad as some critics claim.

Mr Siddons defended Kepit's performance, arguing that this had been over-stated by critics: "As things stand, compared to a share price of 100p at launch, the current ordinary share price is about 93.25p, while the price

of warrants is another 5.5p. Kepit has also paid out about 2.85p per share in dividends.

Things may not be very good, but they are not a disaster."

The deadline for expressions of interest marks the latest stage in the battle for control of Kepit, whose performance has languished almost since its launch two years ago.

More than 85,000 investors poured almost £900m into the trust, whose aim was to replicate in Europe the spectacular in-

vestment successes achieved by privatisations in the UK.

Some £380m had to be returned after the fund was over-subscribed. A similar amount was invested in a separate European privatisation fund offered by Mercury.

The trust failed to live up to expectations. European privatisations were often over-priced, and the anticipated bonanza never arrived.

Assets in the Kepit trust, structured so that it is owned by its

shareholders and not Kleinwort Benson, have remained at about the same level, while the price of shares have traded up to 20 per cent below its net asset value.

Earlier this year, Kleinwort Benson proposed swapping 60 per cent of the shares for loan stock which would be redeemed over five years. It now aims to convert Kepit into a unit trust, to provide investors with an exit route and allow continued to invest in privatisation stocks.

TR European Growth (Treg) also stepped in earlier this month to offer an easier route out.

However, critics have pointed out Treg's offer means Kepit investors having to pay multi-million pound fees to Treg and Hoare Govett, its advisers, while liquidating investments could depress share prices in privatisation stocks.

It is understood that several of the other offers are similar, involving unitisation, new management of the trust or liquidating its assets.

Shares of AT&T, the biggest telephone operator in the United States, dropped sharply yesterday on news that Alex Mandl, the company's president and highest ranking operations executive, was leaving to join a small start-up firm.

The departure came as a shock to the market mainly because he only had four more years to go before he was expected to take on one of America's most coveted corporate positions as chairman of AT&T.

Robert Allen, the current chairman of AT&T, is due to retire in 2000 and Mr Mandl was being groomed for the job.

Instead, the 52-year-old Mr Mandl has decided to take the job as chairman and ceo of Associated Communications, a new unit of Pittsburgh-based The Associated Group, which has several investments in Mexican wireless companies, owns an even art gallery. The Associated Group is a highly ambitious organisation nevertheless, and Associated Communications will develop high-capacity wireless networks in US cities.

AT&T's shares plunged \$1.25 almost immediately on the news to trade at \$54.25 (£35) and worsened to trade in the early New York afternoon at \$53.75, down \$1.75.

"When you get a guy like Mandl leaving who was right next to the throne, it's certainly worth asking whether or not there were some differences of opinion developing about the direction of AT&T," said Scott Wright, analyst at Argus Research.

AT&T insisted that there was nothing sinister about his resignation.

"Alex Mandl helped lead AT&T through five years of extraordinary challenges," said Allen in a statement. "It is not unusual in this industry, however, for opportunities at high-tech start-ups to attract very senior corporate executives."

With Mr Mandl at the helm of its new subsidiary, shares of The Associated Group soared almost 14 per cent on the news, rising about \$3.50 in morning trading to \$29.00 a share.

## AT&amp;T dives as president departs

DANIELLE ROBINSON  
New York

Shares of AT&T, the biggest telephone operator in the United States, dropped sharply yesterday on news that Alex Mandl, the company's president and highest ranking operations executive, was leaving to join a small start-up firm.

The departure came as a shock to the market mainly because he only had four more years to go before he was expected to take on one of America's most coveted corporate positions as chairman of AT&T.

Robert Allen, the current chairman of AT&T, is due to retire in 2000 and Mr Mandl was being groomed for the job.

Instead, the 52-year-old Mr Mandl has decided to take the job as chairman and ceo of Associated Communications, a new unit of Pittsburgh-based The Associated Group, which has several investments in Mexican wireless companies, owns an even art gallery. The Associated Group is a highly ambitious organisation nevertheless, and Associated Communications will develop high-capacity wireless networks in US cities.

AT&T's shares plunged \$1.25 almost immediately on the news to trade at \$54.25 (£35) and worsened to trade in the early New York afternoon at \$53.75, down \$1.75.

"When you get a guy like Mandl leaving who was right next to the throne, it's certainly worth asking whether or not there were some differences of opinion developing about the direction of AT&T," said Scott Wright, analyst at Argus Research.

AT&T insisted that there was nothing sinister about his resignation.

"Alex Mandl helped lead AT&T through five years of extraordinary challenges," said Allen in a statement. "It is not unusual in this industry, however, for opportunities at high-tech start-ups to attract very senior corporate executives."

With Mr Mandl at the helm of its new subsidiary, shares of The Associated Group soared almost 14 per cent on the news, rising about \$3.50 in morning trading to \$29.00 a share.

## media marketing sales

A 7 page section covering all the latest news for media, marketing and sales professionals with pages of new positions on offer

See pages 17 - 23  
section two

To book your advertisement call  
James Cooper on  
0171 293 2301

Every Tuesday in

THE INDEPENDENT  
section two

## IN BRIEF

• Taylor Nelson, the market research group, said the second half had started well, with the continuing development of consumer products and growth in the licensing of television audience measurement products. The group reported pre-tax profits up 12 per cent to £4m in the six months to June, with earnings per share rising from 1.11p to 1.23p. An interim dividend of 0.39p, up from 0.35p, is being paid. Taylor Nelson said the market continued to provide further opportunities to develop its services at home and abroad.

• Dragon Oil announced it was implementing an agreed strategy to improve production levels on the block offshore Turkmenistan it acquired in May. An initial "hot oiling" operation had increased production by a fifth, giving 1,800 barrels a day attributable to Dragon currently. At its annual general meeting the group also said contracts had been exchanged to realise nearly all the inventory owed to the Dragon joint venture by the Turkmen authorities by the end of 1996, which should raise \$14m at current prices.

• Widney, the mechanical and electronic engineering group, said its extraordinary general meeting had approved all resolutions relating to the £1.7m acquisition of Falcon. The company being acquired designs, manufactures and installs control panels for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

• Highland Distilleries said that David Maxwell Scott will be joining the board as sales and marketing director next month. He is also to be managing director of Maxwell Gilling. Mr Maxwell Scott is currently at Grand Metropolitan. He replaces Andrew Kettles, who has left the group.

• Trafalgar House Property, part of Norway's Kvaerner group, has sold Paddington Basin Developments to European Land & Development for £3m. Trafalgar House Property said the transaction would give rise to a profit of some £14m, mainly from the release of provisions, in the second half of 1996. Paddington Basin Developments owns the freehold of three London properties, together with a 999-year lease from British Waterways of 12 acres.

• Headlam Group has bought Soudour Fabrics from Courtaulds Textiles for £2.7m, subject to a final net asset valuation. Headlam said net assets of the acquired business at 30 June were approximately £3.5m. It made an operating loss of £83,000 for the period January to June. Annual sales are around £13m.

	Turnover	Pre-tax	EPS	Dividend
Stretton (F)	13.2m (14.7m)	-2.67m (-2.02m)	-2.3p (-2p)	nil (nil)
Brown & Jackson (F)	167m (156m)	-0.97m (-12.0m)	-4.3p (-35.4p)	nil (-)
Whitney Mackay-Lewis (F)	2.48m (2.95m)	0.16m (0.48m)	2.4p (6.5p)	nil (-)
Argus (I)	561m (479m)	31.8m (21.8m)	7.05p (4.82p)	5.3p (4p)
Michael Page (I)	67.5m (48.4m)	14.0m (7.85m)	14.28p (8.21p)	2p (1.1p)
Taylor Nelson (I)	42.4m (37.3m)	4.0m (3.8m)	1.23p (1.11p)	0.39p (0.35p)
Upham (I)	30.2m (18.1m)	3.21m (0.92m)	6.59p (3.5p)	2.8p (nil)
Wace (I)	167m (154m)	4.2m (10.1m)	1.4p (10.2p)	1.85p (1.85p)

(F) - Final (I) - interim

## The inflated cost of the millennium party

## CITY DIARY

NIGEL COPE



A forward-thinking hotel in County Durham is taking a punt on inflation rising steeply over the next few years. The Redworth Hotel and Country Club near Darlington has started selling "end of the millennium" party tickets for 31 December 1999.

The price: for two people for two nights and plenty of entertainment thrown in is, appropriately, £999.99. The current price is £600. Surely they are not banking on inflation rising at more than 50 per cent over the next three and a bit years?

"We've taken inflation into account but the price also includes lots of entertainment, a jazz band and a crystal gift to commemorate the event, which are not included in our usual price."

Argos may be storing ahead on the high street but it is still struggling to make its mark on the Internet. The catalogue retailer has sold just 35 items via the World Wide Web in 18 months of trying. At an average price tag of £15, that means total cyber-sales of just £500 against costs that must run into tens of thousands. Chief executive Mike Smith, who is never most the most garrulous of people, has yet to be convinced that the whole Internet-malarkey is all what it's cracked up to be. He describes progress as "slow".

Ever optimistic, the London Docklands Development Corporation is attempting to turn a barren stretch of land into a cultural centre. Trinity Buoy Wharf, currently home to a few sheds and a warehouse, is being "re-positioned" in property developer speak as a "cultural quarter".

The idea is to transform the wharf by attracting artists, crafts people and other trends. A tricky assignment for the marketing men, this one. Though the build-

As the name Thorne EMI is consigned to the dusty filing cabinet of corporate history following the de-merger, along comes a book to commemorate its 100 year past. *From Making to Music: the History of Thorne EMI*, will be published next week, penned by SA ("Juggy") Pandit. "Juggy", which is an abbreviation of his lengthy Indian name, worked for Thorne for 17 years and so knows his stuff. Thorne says the book is a no-holds-barred account, including more colourful moments such as the failed bid for BAE, the disastrous move into micro-chip manufacturing and the sale of EMI's film and cinema interests to Aussie entrepreneur Alan Bond in 1985.

"It's not just an eulogy to the company or chairman (Sir) Colin Southgate (above). It's a faithful account. It's for people who are interested in British industry and how they screwed it up."

ings on site do include London's only lighthouse, other features listed include "toilet block" and "redundant boiler house". The Left Bank it is not.

Astrologically inclined investors who think Wall Street rises if Saturn is in its element may find support for their theories in a new book from former trader Henry Weingarten. *Investing by the Stars: using Astrology in the Financial Markets* may be a load of old cobblers to committed chartists but Weingarten is convinced it can work.

"Astrological techniques can help traders improve their performance by up to 5 per cent. If you can guarantee that, they eventually won't care how you achieve it." So there we are, on a full moon, sell ICI.

A man claimed for 17 appendix operations on his insurance while a woman claimed for the loss of an eye on five separate occasions. These are just some of the more ambitious bogus insurance claims filed by policyholders according to the Association of British Insurers.

The association claims that, following a crack-down, all sorts of dodgy claims have been unearthed. One woman claimed £2,000 for treatment following a heart attack. However, she listed her treatment had taken place in a village that no longer existed after it had been submerged following the building of a dam five years earlier.







# Land-Rover owners in revolt at quality defects

Land-Rover owners are in revolt at a succession of "horrendous" quality defects on the four-wheel drive vehicles which Rover's German owner, BMW, is said to have labelled a disgrace.

The catalogue of problems was highlighted in the latest influential US car quality survey by consultants JD Power, which placed Land-Rover bottom out of 37 manufacturers. BMW was said to have "gone ballistic" at the survey statistics and has drafted in extra engineers and quality controllers at the Solihull plant near Birmingham to sort matters out. Worst of all, the top of the range model, the £50,000 Range Rover, is gaining a reputation for unreliability.

Critics of Rover suggest these difficulties are part of a wider malaise. They come as BMW is grappling to turn the loss-making company round, pouring in £500m a year in investment. The Germans are said to be desperate not to suffer the same problems with Rover that Ford had when it acquired Jaguar.

Land-Rover dealers are understandably reluctant about speaking out at the quality problems, but the head of one dealership who did not want to be named, said: "I'm afraid we can only confirm the horrendous reliability problems. We're trying to be loyal because it is a British make, but it's not a good situation. The only bright thing about it is that it makes lots of after-sales warranty work for us sorting things out."

Warwick Banks, who runs a business modifying Land-Rovers, is one owner who has complained endlessly at the defects in his Discovery model. "There's no question about it. This is by far the worst vehicle I have ever had. It started with a noisy gearbox, but then I found the

The famed off-roader has now plunged to bottom of the reliability league tables as Chris Godsmark reports

front suspension was lopsided and the car veered to the left all the time. The windscreen has fallen out three times and the car leaks oil constantly," he said.

The high profile Range Rover, launched in a blaze of publicity at the UK's most exclusive country house hotel, Cliveden, has been recalled twice in its short life, the first time because of suspected air conditioning faults, the second because of problems with the rear suspension.

One owner of a two year old Range Rover, who runs a manufac-

sat back and sat of its laurels. People just seem to shrug their shoulders about the quality problem, but owners are increasingly realising the situation is not specific to them."

Rover said it was disappointed at the JD Power survey, but does not agree that Land-Rover has a particular problem compared to other off-road makes. "I wouldn't say there are more quality difficulties here than elsewhere," said a spokesman, "and we've got plenty of people addressing quality on a day to day basis."

For BMW, which saw Land-

'At least when you're at the bottom, the only way to go is up'

turing company in the Midlands, said: "This is the third Range Rover I've had and stupid things seem to go wrong constantly. The central locking plays up all the time, the front wheels seem to wobble when I go round bends, I don't think it's ever been in for a service without masses of warranty work. Worst of all, my 48,000 mile service cost £940. I had a Jeep before this and nothing went wrong with that at all."

One suggested cause of the reliability failings is complacency at Land-Rover itself. Quentin Wilson, from the BBC's Top Gear programme which helps to produce the UK version of the JD Power survey, explained: "Solihull has far too long

Rover as the jewel in the crown when it bought the company almost three years ago, the reliability record is deeply embarrassing. For several weeks there have been reports that the German management now running Rover is not happy with many aspects of the way the company operates. Equally, British insiders at Rover say much the same thing about their German counterparts, claiming BMW makes agreements, only to break them the next day."

A more fundamental cause of the difficulties at Solihull appears to be the way managers there have coped with expansion. A recent report by brokers Salomon Brothers on the

European motor industry said Rover had "some of the worst production economics in the industry."

Production is a course to have almost doubled in the past four years. In 1993 Land-Rover made 68,159 vehicles, by 1995 production had soared to 127,287. In the first seven months of 1994 it was up a further 6 per cent. The growth is not confined to the Discovery or new Range Rover. Even the traditional "workhorse" Land-Rover which launched the marque has seen dramatic sales increases - appealing to buyers who will probably never use them for off-road work. Yet according to Professor Garel Rhys OBE, from Cardiff Business School, Solihull still has vast spare capacity. For BMW, a question mark hangs over whether this can effectively be used.

Professor Rhys said: "BMW has clearly taken a great interest in Land-Rover and has apparently not allowed everything it has seen. It has gradually been taking more and more control. The alarm bells have suddenly rung because there are just too many failings on Land-Rover vehicles."

Worryingly for BMW demand for four-wheel drive vehicles, which rose so sharply during the late 1980s and early 1990s, appears to be falling off. At the same time buyers are becoming more quality-conscious as the number of rivals from the US and the Far East continues to grow. Meanwhile investment at Solihull will run into hundreds of millions of pounds, most of it for a new body shop, but much of it being ploughed into quality control. Some dealers insist the quality picture is mixed, with customers still generally satisfied. But according to one, "at least when you're at the bottom of a survey like JD Power, the only way to go is up."



Range Rovers: Besset by increasing quality problems at Solihull

Photograph: UPPA

## Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5455	6.4	10.10
Canada	2.2225	1.3	2.37
Germany	2.2000	40-41	140-150
France	7.7670	35-36	365-374
Italy	234.48	48-49	142-146
Japan	168.84	75-76	228-230
ECU	1.2211	15-16	45-46
Belgium	42.384	12-13	39-40
Denmark	8.9303	59-60	146-148
Netherlands	2.5791	65-67	167-174
Ireland	0.0826	7-8	20-21
Norway	8.9442	120-130	310-320
Spain	16.465	21-21	69-66
Sweden	10.252	1.2-1.3	4-4.1
Switzerland	1.9556	54-56	165-167
Australia	1.5656	20-21	67-65
Hong Kong	1.0523	101-101	224-227
Malaysia	3.8524	0-0	0-0
New Zealand	2.2494	43-47	133-136
Saudi Arabia	5.2623	0-0	0-0
Singapore	2.7292	0-0	0-0

## Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15.440	1.0887
Australia	1.5656	1.0333
Brazil	1.5656	1.0333
China	2.2494	3.8524
Egypt	5.2623	3.4025
Finland	8.9303	4.4788
Greece	3.8524	2.2494
India	5.2623	3.8524
Kuwait	4.4788	2.2494

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rates quoted low to high are at a premium.

\*Dollar rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rates quoted low to high are at a premium.

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 0033.

Calls cost 36p per minute (cheaper rate) 40p after hours.

## Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base	5.75%	Discount	5.75%
Prime	Discount	Discount	Discount
Intervention	3.50%	Discount	Discount
Italy	Discount	Discount	Discount
France	Discount	Discount	Discount
Netherlands	Discount	Discount	Discount
Advances	2.80%	Discount	Discount

## Bond Yields

Country	10yr yield	10yr yield	10yr yield
UK	7.1%	7.77%	7.28
Germany	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
US	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Japan	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Australia	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
France	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Italy	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Netherlands	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Denmark	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Sweden	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Belgium	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Spain	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Portugal	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Greece	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
India	5.75%	5.75%	5.75
Kuwait	5.75%	5.75%	5.75

## Money Market Rates

Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Banking	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Interbank	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Discount	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Commercial	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Government	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Local Authority	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4



YORK EBOR MEETING: The opening day brings an opportunity for a hardy turf campaigner to establish a popular front

# Halling running for a second term at the top

Halling would make a poor politician. The chestnut who has already retained his Eclipse Stakes crown attempts to complete the double-double at York this afternoon with success in a second consecutive International Stakes. Yet it seems Godolphin's five-year-old has developed the vote-losing tendency of being remembered for his worst moments.

Halling, like Godolphin himself, has perhaps not received due recognition. When his name is brought up by those with beer froth on their upper lip it is inevitably linked with defeats at the hands of the American equine colossus, Cigar, both at the Breeders' Cup in New York last autumn and in this spring's Dubai World Cup.

It should be pointed out that both those reverses were on dirt, a surface which Godolphin now realises does not suit Halling. This should not detract from the horse, as the sport is replete with animals who can perform with much greater facility on either grass or dirt. Cigar himself was close to non-descript on turf, while a small example from this country is Clive Brittain's Mister Fire Eyes, who is rated 95 on his all-weather form but whose grass performances suggest he is a two stones and more inferior performer in that sphere.

Halling himself has won his last seven starts on turf and will be favourite this afternoon on the Knavesmire to extend that sequence. The British campaign, which includes First Island, Bijou D'Inde and Grape Tree Road, will hardly be throwing petals in the chestnut's path to herald his coronation, but there

## Richard Edmondson on the Godolphin runner with international ambitions

is a feeling in the Halling camp that he will not surrender lightly. "It's an awful lot to ask of him, but he has been campaigned with this specially in mind," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said.

As long as he does not disgrace himself on the Knavesmire, Halling will then be asked to contest races such as the Champion Stakes and possibly the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe for his Arab owners.

That Godolphin achieve success should be no surprise. They hardly select animals from the milk depot. In addition, the blue-bedecked animals they gather receive the sort of winter pampering that the rich treat themselves to in St Moritz. What is arresting, however, is the frequency of triumphs within the organisation.

It was said last year that the nominal assistant, Jeremy Noseda, was the trainer in all but name and that Saeed Bin Suroor, the team's designated trainer, was little more than a good operator with a chequered record. Noseda, though, has long since loaded up his truck and gone to California, and his replacement, Bill Mort's former assistant, Tom Albertani, has

done little to slow Godolphin's locomotion. The prevailing thought this season seems to be that Godolphin have somehow failed, but if they have descended from last year's achievements it was only because those results could never be replicated. "We had our campaign spearheaded last season by Lammarra, who was a once-in-a-lifetime type of horse," Crisford said. "I have to say that following that we've been absolutely delighted with the way things have gone this year."

The scroll shows that Godolphin have collected five Group One titles this year via Halling who won the Prix de l'Arc in France as well as the Eclipse, Classic Cliche, Overbury and Mark Of Esteem, who delivered classic success in the 2,000 Guineas. There have been several other Group winners such as Heart Lake and Charnwood Forest, the Queen Anne Stakes victor at Royal Ascot, horses

who have contributed towards a 28 per cent strike-rate and a worldwide £1.8m in prize-money. Do not stay awake tonight with worries for Sheikh Mohammed.

Dubai's crown prince still considers the Godolphin experiment to be in its infancy, and fit and sleek horses from the Emirates will be arriving on these shores for many springs to come. If there is to be a tinkering within the system it will come in the equine staffing of Godolphin. Sheikh Mohammed considers his finest moment in racing to be the Derby victory of Lammarra, who was bred by his family in America and nurtured by his team in the Gulf. He would like to relive that cradle-to-podestum experience.

"We're concentrating more on home-bred yearlings now," Crisford said. "I'm sure we will buy a few horses, but certainly not in the numbers that we've bought previously."

A different policy may be on the way, but Halling should show at York today that the results remain the same.



Halling lets the bad memory of his dirt defeats wash over him

Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

## Tactics may decide 'race of the year'

"The best race of the year", is how Peter Chapple-Hyam yesterday described today's International Stakes, in which he sends out Spectrum to try and wrest the trophy from Halling.

Without win since last year's Champion Stakes, Spectrum has shown signs at home that he is returning to form. "Spectrum is back to his best,"

Chapple-Hyam said, "but he will need to be, it looks the best race of the year."

"The horse will be suited by plenty of pace because he probably will take a mile and a half and if all goes well then he goes for the Arc."

In the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown last time it was Halling, closely followed

throughout by Bijou D'Inde, who set the pace, but Bijou D'Inde's trainer, Mark Johnston, was guarded yesterday as to whether similar tactics would be adopted today by his three-year-old who had been considered a doubtful stayer prior to the Eclipse.

"Jason [Weaver] will stop by after racing today to discuss how

the race would suit our horse," Johnston said. "We don't plan tactics, we wait until the stalls open before deciding what's best, that's what jockeys are for. The pace of the race will also be pertinent to the prospects of the improving First Island, whose greatest success came over a mile last time out in Goodwood's Sussex Stakes."

## Expection of Snow

Ante-post punters on the Ebor, who had a setback with the withdrawal of the fancied Celtic at the weekend, may still have something to cheer in tomorrow's race as Ambassador and Snow Princess, who had both been considered doubtful, are now likely to run.

The Barry Hills-trained Ambassador will have Willie Carson

in the saddle, while Snow Princess's trainer, Lord Huntington, who had been worried that underfoot conditions would be too firm for the filly, walked the course yesterday and was pleased with what he found. Ebor Handicap Ladies: 4-1 Harbour Dues, 7-1 Beauchamp Lodge, 8-1 Ambassador, 10-1 Snow Princess & Celtic, 12-1 Silver Oiler, 13-1 Corcoran & Foundry Lane, 14-1 Top Oaks, 15-1 Pussan Blue, 16-1 Desert Fox & 20-1 others.

## YORK

2.05 In Command  
2.35 WILAWANDER (nap)  
3.10 Halling  
3.45 Mons

GOING: Good.  
STALLS: 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8, 11-9, 11-10, 11-11, 11-12, 11-13, 11-14, 11-15, 11-16, 11-17, 11-18, 11-19, 11-20, 11-21, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24, 11-25, 11-26, 11-27, 11-28, 11-29, 11-30, 11-31, 11-32, 11-33, 11-34, 11-35, 11-36, 11-37, 11-38, 11-39, 11-40, 11-41, 11-42, 11-43, 11-44, 11-45, 11-46, 11-47, 11-48, 11-49, 11-50, 11-51, 11-52, 11-53, 11-54, 11-55, 11-56, 11-57, 11-58, 11-59, 11-60, 11-61, 11-62, 11-63, 11-64, 11-65, 11-66, 11-67, 11-68, 11-69, 11-70, 11-71, 11-72, 11-73, 11-74, 11-75, 11-76, 11-77, 11-78, 11-79, 11-80, 11-81, 11-82, 11-83, 11-84, 11-85, 11-86, 11-87, 11-88, 11-89, 11-90, 11-91, 11-92, 11-93, 11-94, 11-95, 11-96, 11-97, 11-98, 11-99, 11-100, 11-101, 11-102, 11-103, 11-104, 11-105, 11-106, 11-107, 11-108, 11-109, 11-110, 11-111, 11-112, 11-113, 11-114, 11-115, 11-116, 11-117, 11-118, 11-119, 11-120, 11-121, 11-122, 11-123, 11-124, 11-125, 11-126, 11-127, 11-128, 11-129, 11-130, 11-131, 11-132, 11-133, 11-134, 11-135, 11-136, 11-137, 11-138, 11-139, 11-140, 11-141, 11-142, 11-143, 11-144, 11-145, 11-146, 11-147, 11-148, 11-149, 11-150, 11-151, 11-152, 11-153, 11-154, 11-155, 11-156, 11-157, 11-158, 11-159, 11-160, 11-161, 11-162, 11-163, 11-164, 11-165, 11-166, 11-167, 11-168, 11-169, 11-170, 11-171, 11-172, 11-173, 11-174, 11-175, 11-176, 11-177, 11-178, 11-179, 11-180, 11-181, 11-182, 11-183, 11-184, 11-185, 11-186, 11-187, 11-188, 11-189, 11-190, 11-191, 11-192, 11-193, 11-194, 11-195, 11-196, 11-197, 11-198, 11-199, 11-200, 11-201, 11-202, 11-203, 11-204, 11-205, 11-206, 11-207, 11-208, 11-209, 11-210, 11-211, 11-212, 11-213, 11-214, 11-215, 11-216, 11-217, 11-218, 11-219, 11-220, 11-221, 11-222, 11-223, 11-224, 11-225, 11-226, 11-227, 11-228, 11-229, 11-230, 11-231, 11-232, 11-233, 11-234, 11-235, 11-236, 11-237, 11-238, 11-239, 11-240, 11-241, 11-242, 11-243, 11-244, 11-245, 11-246, 11-247, 11-248, 11-249, 11-250, 11-251, 11-252, 11-253, 11-254, 11-255, 11-256, 11-257, 11-258, 11-259, 11-260, 11-261, 11-262, 11-263, 11-264, 11-265, 11-266, 11-267, 11-268, 11-269, 11-270, 11-271, 11-272, 11-273, 11-274, 11-275, 11-276, 11-277, 11-278, 11-279, 11-280, 11-281, 11-282, 11-283, 11-284, 11-285, 11-286, 11-287, 11-288, 11-289, 11-290, 11-291, 11-292, 11-293, 11-294, 11-295, 11-296, 11-297, 11-298, 11-299, 11-300, 11-301, 11-302, 11-303, 11-304, 11-305, 11-306, 11-307, 11-308, 11-309, 11-310, 11-311, 11-312, 11-313, 11-314, 11-315, 11-316, 11-317, 11-318, 11-319, 11-320, 11-321, 11-322, 11-323, 11-324, 11-325, 11-326, 11-327, 11-328, 11-329, 11-330, 11-331, 11-332, 11-333, 11-334, 11-335, 11-336, 11-337, 11-338, 11-339, 11-340, 11-341, 11-342, 11-343, 11-344, 11-345, 11-346, 11-347, 11-348, 11-349, 11-350, 11-351, 11-352, 11-353, 11-354, 11-355, 11-356, 11-357, 11-358, 11-359, 11-360, 11-361, 11-362, 11-363, 11-364, 11-365, 11-366, 11-367, 11-368, 11-369, 11-370, 11-371, 11-372, 11-373, 11-374, 11-375, 11-376, 11-377, 11-378, 11-379, 11-380, 11-381, 11-382, 11-383, 11-384, 11-385, 11-386, 11-387, 11-388, 11-389, 11-390, 11-391, 11-392, 11-393, 11-394, 11-395, 11-396, 11-397, 11-398, 11-399, 11-400, 11-401, 11-402, 11-403, 11-404, 11-405, 11-406, 11-407, 11-408, 11-409, 11-410, 11-411, 11-412, 11-413, 11-414, 11-415, 11-416, 11-417, 11-418, 11-419, 11-420, 11-421, 11-422, 11-423, 11-424, 11-425, 11-426, 11-427, 11-428, 11-429, 11-430, 11-431, 11-432, 11-433, 11-434, 11-435, 11-436, 11-437, 11-438, 11-439, 11-440, 11-441, 11-442, 11-443, 11-444, 11-445, 11-446, 11-447, 11-448, 11-449, 11-450, 11-451, 11-452, 11-453, 11-454, 11-455, 11-456, 11-457, 11-458, 11-459, 11-460, 11-461, 11-462, 11-463, 11-464, 11-465, 11-466, 11-467, 11-468, 11-469, 11-470, 11-471, 11-472, 11-473, 11-474, 11-475, 11-476, 11-477, 11-478, 11-479, 11-480, 11-481, 11-482, 11-483, 11-484, 11-485, 11-486, 11-487, 11-488, 11-489, 11-490, 11-491, 11-492, 11-493, 11-494, 11-495, 11-496, 11-497, 11-498, 11-499, 11-500, 11-501, 11-502, 11-503, 11-504, 11-505, 11-506, 11-507, 11-508, 11-509, 11-510, 11-511, 11-512, 11-513, 11-514, 11-515, 11-516, 11-517, 11-518, 11-519, 11-520, 11-521, 11-522, 11-523, 11-524, 11-525, 11-526, 11-527, 11-528, 11-529, 11-530, 11-531, 11-532, 11-533, 11-534, 11-535, 11-536, 11-537, 11-538, 11-539, 11-540, 11-541, 11-542, 11-543, 11-544, 11-545, 11-546, 11-547, 11-548, 11-549, 11-550, 11-551, 11-552, 11-553, 11-554, 11-555, 11-556, 11-557, 11-558, 11-559, 11-560, 11-561, 11-562, 11-563, 11-564, 11-565, 11-566, 11-567, 11-568, 11-569, 11-570, 11-571, 11-572, 11-573, 11-574, 11-575, 11-576, 11-577, 11-578, 11-579, 11-580, 11-581, 11-582, 11-583, 11-584, 11-585, 11-586, 11-587, 11-588, 11-589, 11-590, 11-591, 11-592, 11-593, 11-594, 11-595, 11-596, 11-597, 11-598, 11-599, 11-600, 11-601, 11-602, 11-603, 11-604, 11-605, 11-606, 11-607, 11-608, 11-609, 11-610, 11-611, 11-612, 11-613, 11-614, 11-615, 11-616, 11-617, 11-618, 11-619, 11-620, 11-621, 11-622, 11-623, 11-624, 11-625, 11-626, 11-627, 11-628, 11-629, 11-630, 11-631, 11-632, 11-633, 11-634, 11-635, 11-636, 11-637, 11-638, 11-639, 11-640, 11-641, 11-642, 11-643, 11-644, 11-645, 11-646, 11-647, 11-648, 11-649, 11-650, 11-651, 11-652, 11-653, 11-654, 11-655, 11-656, 11-657, 11-658, 11-659, 11-660, 11-661, 11-662, 11-663, 11-664, 11-665, 11-666, 11-667, 11-668, 11-669, 11-670, 11-671, 11-672, 11-673, 11-674, 11-675, 11-676, 11-677, 11-678, 11-679, 11-680, 11-681, 11-682, 11-683, 11-684, 11-685, 11-686, 11-687, 11-688, 11-689, 11-690, 11-691, 11-692, 11-693, 11-694, 11-695, 11-696, 11-697, 11-698, 11-699, 11-700, 11-701, 11-702, 11-703, 11-704, 11-705, 11-706, 11-707, 11-708, 11-709, 11-710, 11-711, 11-712, 11-713, 11-714, 11-715, 11-716, 11-717, 11-718, 11-719, 11-720, 11-721, 11-722, 11-723, 11-724, 11-725, 11-726, 11-727, 11-728, 11-729, 11-730, 11-731, 11-732, 11-733, 11-734, 11-735, 11-736, 11-737, 11-738, 11-739, 11-740, 11-741, 11-742, 11-743, 11-744, 11-745, 11-746, 11-747, 11-748, 11-749, 11-750, 11-751, 11-752, 11-753, 11-754, 11-755, 11-756, 11-757, 11-758, 11-759, 11-760, 11-761, 11-762, 11-763, 11-764, 11-765, 11-766, 11-767, 11-768, 11-769, 11-770, 11-771, 11-772, 11-773, 11-774, 11-775, 11-776, 11-777, 11-778, 11-779, 11-780, 11-781, 11-782, 11-783, 11-784, 11-785, 11-786, 11-787, 11-788, 11-789, 11-790, 11-791, 11-792, 11-793, 11-794, 11-795, 11-796, 11-797, 11-798, 11-799, 11-800, 11-801, 11-802, 11-803, 11-804, 11-805, 11-806, 11-807, 11-808, 11-809, 11-810, 11-811, 11-812, 11-813, 11-814, 11-815, 11-816, 11-817, 11-818, 11-819, 11-820, 11-821, 11-822, 11-823, 11-824, 11-825, 11-826, 11-827, 11-828, 11-829, 11-830, 11-831, 11-832, 11-833, 11-834, 11-835, 11-836, 11-837, 11-838, 11-839, 11-840, 11-841, 11-842, 11-843, 11-844, 11-845, 11-846, 11-847, 11-848, 11-849, 11-850, 11-851, 11-852, 11-853, 11-854, 11-855, 11-856, 11-857, 11-858, 11-859, 11-860, 11-861, 11-862, 11-863, 11-864, 11-865, 11-866, 11-867, 11-868, 11-869, 11-870, 11-871, 11-872, 11-873, 11-874, 11-875, 11-876, 11-877, 11-878, 11-879, 11-880, 11-881, 11-882, 11-883, 11-884, 11-885, 11-886, 11-887, 11-888, 11-889, 11-890, 11-891, 11-892, 11-893, 11-894, 11-895, 11-896, 11-897, 11-898, 11-899, 11-900, 11-901, 11-902, 11-903, 11-904, 11-905, 11-906, 11-907, 11-908, 11-909, 11-910, 11-911, 11-912, 11-913, 11-914, 11-915, 11-916, 11-917, 11-918, 11-919, 11-920, 11-921, 11-922, 11-923, 11-924, 11-925, 11-926, 11-927, 11-928, 11-929, 11-930, 11-931, 11-932, 11-933, 11-934, 11-935, 11-936, 11-937, 11-938, 11-939, 11-940, 11-941, 11-942, 11-943, 11-944, 11-945, 11-946, 11-947, 11-948, 11-949, 11-950, 11-951, 11-952, 11-953, 11-954, 11-955, 11-956, 11-957, 11-958, 11-959, 11-960, 11-961, 11-962, 11-963, 11-964, 11-965, 11-966, 11-967, 11-968, 11-969, 11-970, 11-971, 11-972, 11-973, 11-974, 11-975, 11-976, 11-977, 11-978, 11-979, 11-980, 11-981, 11-982, 11-983, 11-984, 11-985, 11-986, 11-987, 11-988, 11-989, 11-990, 11-991, 11-992, 11-993, 11-994, 11-995, 11-996, 11-997, 11-998, 11-999, 12-000.

GOING: Good.  
STALLS: 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8, 11-9, 11-10, 11-11, 11-12, 11-13, 11-14, 11-15, 11-16, 11-17, 11-18, 11-19, 11-20, 11-21, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24, 11-25, 11-26, 11-27, 11-28, 11-29, 11-30, 11-31, 11-32, 11-33, 11-34, 11-35, 11-36, 11-37, 11-38, 11-39, 11-40, 11-41, 11-42, 11-43, 11-44, 11-45, 11-46, 11-47, 11-48, 11-49, 11-50, 11-51, 11-52, 11-53, 11-54, 11-55, 11-56, 11-57, 11-58, 11-59, 11-60, 11-61, 11-62, 11-63, 11-64, 11-65, 11-66, 11-67, 11-68, 11-69, 11-70, 11-71, 11-72, 11-73, 11-74, 11-75, 11-76, 11-77, 11-78, 11-79, 11-80, 11-81, 11-82, 11-83, 11-84, 11-85, 11-86, 11-87, 11-88, 11-89, 11-90, 11-91, 11-92, 11-93, 11-94, 11-95, 11-96, 11-97, 11-98, 11-99, 12-000.

GOING: Good.  
STALLS: 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8, 11-9, 11-10, 11-11, 11-12, 11-13, 11-14, 11-15, 11-16, 11-17, 11-18, 11-19, 11-20, 11-21, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24, 11-25, 11-26, 11-27, 11-28, 11-29, 11-30, 11-31, 11-32, 11-33, 11-34, 11-35, 11-36, 11-37, 11-38, 11-39, 11-40, 11-41, 11-42, 11-43, 11-44, 11-45, 11-46, 11-47, 11-48, 11-49, 11-50, 11-51, 11-52, 11-53, 11-54, 11-55, 11-56, 11-57, 11-58, 11-59, 11-60, 11-61, 11-62, 11-63, 11-64, 11-65, 11-66, 11-67, 11-68, 11-69, 11-70, 11-71, 11-72, 11-73, 11-74, 11-75, 11-76, 11-77, 11-78, 11-79, 11-80, 11-81, 11-82, 11-83, 11-84, 11-85, 11-86, 11-87, 11-88, 11-89, 11-90, 11-91, 11-92, 11-93, 11-94, 11-95, 11-96, 11-97, 11-98, 11-99, 12-000.

</











## SPORT

**FOOTBALL AND RUGBY IN UNISON: David Aaronovitch on**  
Chris Wright's plans for Queen's Park Rangers and Wasps Page 22

# Malcolm blasts Derbyshire to top of the table

**£2.38m boost for English cricket**

## Cricket

**HENRY BLOFELD** reports from Derby  
Derbyshire 341 and 377-8 dec  
Nottinghamshire 317 and 98  
Derbyshire win by 303 runs

Sadly, there cannot be too many people still around who took part in the celebrations when Derbyshire won the County Championship for the only time in 1936. Their present supporters, who will include a

sprinkling of the old, have every right now to hope for a second Championship after Derbyshire gained such a decisive victory over their neighbours and keen rivals Nottinghamshire.

Dean Jones' side are at the top of the table with barely a month to go and four more matches in front of them: they play Worcestershire at Chesterfield, Somerset at Taunton and Warwickshire and Durham at Derby. There are worse prospects than that.

The manner in which they

disposed of Nottinghamshire was impressive. The enigmatic and currently irrepressible Devon Malcolm was inevitably the bowler who did the business, with Phillip DeFreitas as a lively and most willing accessory.

Chris Cairns had the impetuosity to try to hook in Malcolm's first over and paid the penalty when the mis-hit stroke was clutched by Adrian Rollins on the square-leg boundary.

This acted as a sort of clearing of the throat for Malcolm, who proceeded to bounce in

with his rhythm in full working order and blast Chris Tibley's off stump out of the ground with a ball he never saw, so much so that he left it alone.

This stunned DeFreitas, who immediately meted out similar treatment to the off stump of Kevin Evans, who also forgot to play a stroke. The odd push and a couple of edges took the score to 98 when Malcolm again grew impatient. Wayne Noon pushed hopefully from the crease at one which seemed to come back into him and Rollins

dived like a gymnast to his right at short leg and held on.

It only remained for DeFreitas, in his next over, to find the edge of Mark Bowden's drive and Jones gleefully held a stinging catch two-handed to his right at third slip. As Paul Pollard was still unfit to bat after the blow he had had on the helmet from Malcolm on Saturday, it was a short and most convincing day's work for Derbyshire.

It was appropriate that Jones should have held the last catch because it is, more than any-

thing, the Australian influence which seems to have made the difference to Derbyshire this year. When Jones was first contacted about the job of captaining Derbyshire, he said he would only accept if he could bring his coach and friend, Les Stillingman, with him.

Derbyshire agreed and it has been a happy and fruitful relationship. Jones has relished the challenge, he has batted well and as a captain his single most important act is to have given Malcolm back his self respect.

I do not suppose any England captain or selector would want to have a talk with Jones, but Derby is not all that far away.

In 1936, Derbyshire were captained by Arthur Richardson. Wisden says of him that he captained the side with "a shrewdness and geniality which brought the best out of the cricketers under him." Jones would not be unhappy with that testimonial. At the moment, Derbyshire are a vibrant club and they will take some holding.

England's international future yesterday received a £2.38m boost. A scheme designed to produce quality Test players for coming years was unveiled at Lord's by the Cricket Foundation, and its ideal is to set up 38 centres of excellence, one for each of the new County Boards.

"It is an important first brick in the structure of the English Cricket Board which will be up and running on 1 October," said Ossie Wheatley, the chairman of the Cricket Foundation.

A major objective of Wheatley's is for the 17-year-old finished products to emerge from the centres as good as those who graduate from the highly successful Australian Academy.

A cash injection of £2.3m from the Test and County Cricket Board plus a guarantee of £1.9m over the next three years has handsomely backed a development project which will cost £2.38m overall.

The first centre of excellence for young hopefuls in the Under-12 to Under-17 age group is to be set up at Durham University, which has produced 30 county players.

Wheatley added: "The long-promised restructuring of cricket in England and Wales is underway. Every county in the country - 38 County Boards - will benefit from this investment. The emphasis is on developing better quality young cricketers, particularly 11-16-year-olds."

All 38 County Boards have received grants, six amounting to six figures, plus £135,000 to Durham University in three annual awards of £45,000.

Australia's cricketers left yesterday for a short tour of Sri Lanka, where they face a volatile reception after refusing to set foot on the island six months ago due to security fears. It is their first visit since boycotting a World Cup fixture in February, they will be without their captain, Mark Taylor, as well as Shane Warne because of injury.

India's new captain, Sachin Tendulkar, has admitted he is worried about ethnic violence in Sri Lanka a week before the start of the Singer World Series tournament - but he seems reassured the Sri Lankans have done all they can to protect the three visiting sides, India, Zimbabwe and Australia.

"It does worry us a bit," Tendulkar said. "We hear so many things. It is difficult to put them out of your mind and so there is some pressure. But I am confident about the security cover."

The Test and County Cricket Board's disciplinary hearing into the positive drug test by the Sussex bowler Ed Giddings was suspended after four and a half hours yesterday, and will resume this morning.

# Scottish quartet ready for Europe

## Football

Scotland's Gang of Four enter continental combat this week knowing success is becoming increasingly crucial to maintain tartan presence in Europe.

Celtic, Aberdeen, Rangers and Hearts appear to have given themselves a better than even chance of progress in the qualifying rounds of the European competitions. And progress for all four is imperative if Scotland are to cling to their status in the continental arena.

Uefa is already threatening to withdraw the Uefa Cup place on offer to the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup holders and, ultimately, only one place instead of the current two might be on offer if Scottish clubs continue to perform poorly.

Changes to the Champions' League set-up for next season may favour the runners-up in the English Premiership, but whoever wins the title in Scotland may face even more hazardous preliminary and qualifying round games than Rangers have experienced in the past.

Walter Smith's men head for Russia today via Austria with a 3-1 lead over Alania Vladikavkaz, hoping to reach the lucrative Champions' League for the third time in five seasons. Rangers are said to be on £30,000 a man to make it to the group stages, which could be worth in excess of £5m to the club.

Richard Gough, who suffered

a nasty head cut against Clydebank last week, came through Saturday's 5-2 Premier Division win over Dunfermline and is fit to travel. Smith is hoping Gordon Durie will recover from a chest infection while Gordon Petric has a slight thigh problem.

Celtic and Aberdeen are first into Europe tonight, with both hoping to reach the first round proper of the Uefa Cup. Pittodrie will probably host an almost meaningless tie, with Aberdeen having won 4-1 in Lithuania in the first leg against Zalgiris Vilnius.

Celtic will have the backing of a packed Parkhead as they seek to overcome Slovakian visitors Kosice after a goalless draw away from home. Simon Donnelly, sent off in Kosice, is suspended for the return but Italian Paolo Di Canio could make the bench. Paul McGee and Phil O'Donnell are both out injured.

Rangers will be next into action in darkest Russia when they face Alania in Vladikavkaz tomorrow night. Paul Gascoigne is suspended while Vladikavkaz will be without Arthur Papayev, sent off at Ibrox a fortnight ago.

Hearts face Red Star Belgrade in the Cup-Winners' Cup in Edinburgh on Thursday night. Jim Jeffries' side did well to earn a goalless draw in Belgrade but will have to be wary of conceding an away goal at Tynecastle. Hearts should have the backing of around 16,000 fans after being given the go-ahead by council chiefs last week to open the Gorgie Road end of the ground.

# Briton spinning wheels of fortune at the Paralympics



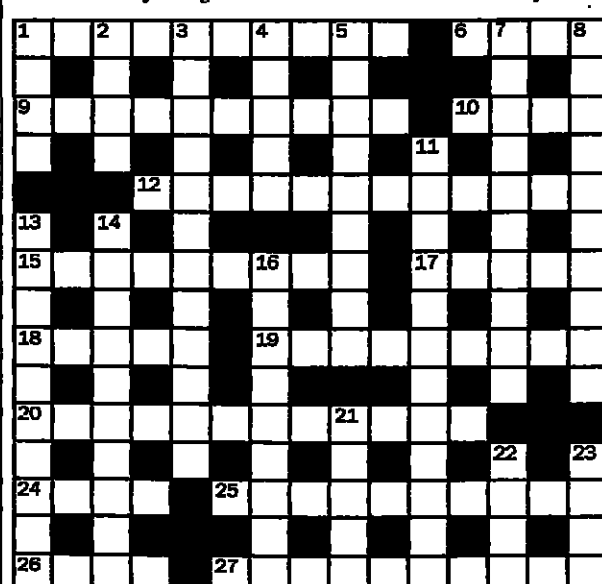
Following the red line: Kevin Heslop, the Great Britain cyclist, stays low on the track to increase speed in the 200m sprint event at the Stone Mountain Velodrome during the Paralympics in Atlanta, Georgia. Report, page 22. Photograph: Todd Warshaw/Allsport

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3878. Tuesday 20 August.

By Andrew

Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Losing our tempers about one is shameful (10)
  - Craws some bitchiness (4)
  - Detective has intelligence to get point of observer (3-7)
  - Blood products would be returned to Mars (4)
  - Forceful leads of one of red suit causes complaints (5,7)
  - Perhaps end of fen country's final stand (-4-5)
  - Come up again about mongrel (5)
  - Commander-in-Chief secures honour, which is funny (5)
  - Divert team with song on CD? (-4-5)
  - Her misplaced suspicion on land agent could be a minus (6,6)
  - Anything but marine standard (4)
  - Elkie prays for cure of illness (10)
  - Prepare to shoot male bird (4)
  - Policy with regard to cheque, we hear? (10)
- DOWN**
- One's cross, having to hold live animal (4)
  - Song to be feature in single, evidently (4)
  - Rare odd tribute to male's incidental remark (6,6)
  - Victor, abandoned by women, is taking heart? (5)
  - Not cast down holding animal to be lacking injury (9)
  - Ditch firm by getting personal cover? (6-4)
  - Effect of too many higher degrees? (10)
  - One said to swear after rage is effectively a bel-ligerent (5,7)
  - Awfully nice lecturer might not need such aids? (10)
  - Like my backing of verse that's unbalanced (10)
  - After short time request church dedicated body (-4-5)
  - Untouchables, say, in Dacca's territory (5)
  - Are able to gather 50 relatives? (4)
  - Man, say, lies down (4)

# Sherwood is tempted by Blackburn contract

ALAN NIXON AND MARK BURTON

Tim Sherwood is being offered a new five-year contract to stay with Blackburn Rovers. The midfielder had talks with Rovers' chairman, Robert Coor, yesterday in an attempt to settle his future after weeks of rumour that he would join Arsenal.

Rovers are willing to throw in a testimonial that could make the contract extension worth almost £3m. Ray Harford, the Rovers manager, is keen to have Sherwood, valued at £4m, tied down because he faces mounting problems and needs his captain to stay. Sherwood will be in the team for the trip to Aston Villa tomorrow.

Jason Wilcox, who missed Rovers' opening Premiership match against Tottenham, has undergone another knee operation to remove gristle from his knee. The winger only returned to action towards the end of last season after being out for close on a year following surgery on a cruciate ligament injury.

Queen's Park Rangers have been fined £25,000 by the Foot-

ball Association because of their poor disciplinary record. Rovers had a £50,000 suspended fine hanging over them because of their disciplinary record during the 1994/95 season. Because there was no improvement last season, when they had four players sent off, they have now been punished. The FA also fined Wimbledon £10,000 for indiscipline.

QPR's former England striker, Mark Hateley, has joined Leeds United on a month's loan to cover the absence of Tony Yeboah and Brian Deane. Yeboah is recovering from an exploratory knee operation and Deane is out for several weeks after suffering knee and groin injuries during Saturday's season opener at Derby. Hateley, 34, will make his debut for Leeds in tonight's home game against Sheffield Wednesday.

Carlton Palmer may be missing from the Leeds defence after picking up back and ankle injuries during Saturday's match against Derby County.

Manchester City might miss out on Elvis Brankovic, the Croatian defender they want to replace Keith Curle. City hope to

sign him from his German club Munich 1860, but the Spanish club, Celta Vigo, are interested in him and are, apparently, offering the player more money.

City's manager, Alan Ball, is also interested in signing the Scottish striker Paul Dickov from Arsenal. He has had an offer of £750,000 accepted and will have talks with the player.

Sunderland have signed goalkeeper Lionel Perez from Bordeaux for £200,000. The transfer is subject to approval from the French Federation. He will act as cover for Tony Cotton, who moved to Roker Park from Manchester United for £600,000 during the summer.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has added Glenn Roeder and Roy McFarland to his scouting network. They both lost managerial posts last season. McFarland was sacked by Bolton and Roeder was dismissed by Watford. Hoddle's existing scouting team includes the new England Under-21 coach, Peter Taylor, the new England goalkeeper coach, Ray Clemence, Ted Buxton, Ken Howe, Dave Sexton and Don Brown.

# Fighting for peace in São Paulo

Two players were sent off for fighting while the referee was given a police escort on Sunday in a Brazilian championship match which had begun with players offering their support to a peace campaign.

The São Paulo team brought a white flag on to the field for their home match with Bahia to show solidarity for a public campaign against violence in São Paulo, which has seen

several people murdered during armed robberies this month. But as soon as the game began, the players set about kicking each other as a series of wild tackles flew in. The São Paulo midfielder Edmilson was the victim of a vicious tackle from Bahia's Victor Hugo Aristizabal which resulted in most of the players squaring up to each other. Six minutes into the second half, Edmilson and the Bahia midfielder Darci were

shown the red card for fighting.

The referee had been given a police escort as he left the field at the interval to protect him against Bahia players who believed the goal which gave São Paulo a 2-1 lead was offside.

Two late goals from Colombia's Victor Hugo Aristizabal gave the home side a 5-2 win, and he said afterwards: "You need to be calm with the ball, it has to be treated like a woman."

## "The man is a national treasure"

(What Doctors Don't Tell You)

## IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME?

## Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman

If you suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome you will know only too well how this painful disorder can ruin your life. I used to suffer terribly from IBS, and had all the usual symptoms (pain, wind etc) but conquered the problem using a simple, two-step control programme. Since then my symptoms have virtually disappeared and the quality of my life has improved beyond measure. Now you can share the information that gave me back a normal life. I have produced a book called "Relief from IBS" that explains the methods I used to solve my IBS problem. The advice is written in an easy-to-follow style and includes a series of simple, practical guidelines designed to help you deal with your IBS in the same way that I dealt with mine. The topics covered include:

- Causes and symptoms
- How to look after your digestive system
- Relief from wind
- Tips on how to cope with stress
- Foods that can make things worse

Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. As a bonus we will also send you a valuable FREE book worth £9.95 when you order. The contents of your free book include: "Should you get a second opinion?", "How to get the best out of your doctor", "How to cope in an emergency", "How to live to be 100", "Improve your life by changing your diet", "How to protect yourself against viruses" and much, much more! To order your copy of my book Relief from IBS send a cheque or postal order (payable to Publishing House) for £9.95 to IBS Book Offer, Sales Office IN41, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HJ. Post and packing is FREE! For credit card sales please ring (01271) 328892. Your book will be sent to you within 28 days. Reading this book could help solve your IBS problem for good - and remember, you have nothing to lose but your symptoms. Your free book is yours to keep whatever you decide.

"His advice is optimistic and enthusiastic" (The British Medical Journal)

"Dr Vernon Coleman is one of our most enlightened, trenchant and sensible dispensers of medical advice" (The Observer)

Published by the European Medical Journal

سكرا من الامم